

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

NEWINGTON

2020 Plan Of Conservation And Development



POCD PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION

Public Hearing Scheduled For **July 22, 2020**



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WELCOME!



May 2020

To Newington Residents,

This is the PROPOSED 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for Newington. This document is an update of the 2010 POCD based on:

- The provisions of Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes,
- Current conditions and trends affecting Newington,
- Independent research and investigation,
- Input from local boards, commissions, departments, and agencies,
- Participation by Newington residents and business owners, and
- Working meetings of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission.

The Town Plan and Zoning Commission will be holding a public hearing to consider adoption of this PROPOSED POCD on:

Wednesday July 22 at 7:00 PM
Virtual / ZOOM Meeting
(details to be announced at a later date)

People may participate via ZOOM and written communications received before the meeting will be considered. Following the public hearing, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission will consider the comments received before moving forward with adoption and implementation.

Thank you for your interest in the future of Newington.

Sincerely,

Newington Town Plan & Zoning Commission

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

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INTRODUCTION



This document is the 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for Newington, Connecticut. This POCD update was prepared by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) with input from Newington residents and from other local boards and commissions.

A Plan of Conservation and Development is a document which is intended to establish a common vision for the future of a community and then determine strategies that will help attain that vision.

Every so often, it makes sense for a community to evaluate the conditions and trends affecting the community and make informed decisions about how it should approach the future in order to:

- Protect things important to the community (conservation strategies),
- Wisely manage our use of resources to help maintain and improve the community for future generations (sustainability strategies);
- Guide uses and activities in ways that will provide things the community wants or needs (development strategies), and
- Provide for things which will enhance the overall health and well-being of the community and the quality of life of its residents (infrastructure strategies).

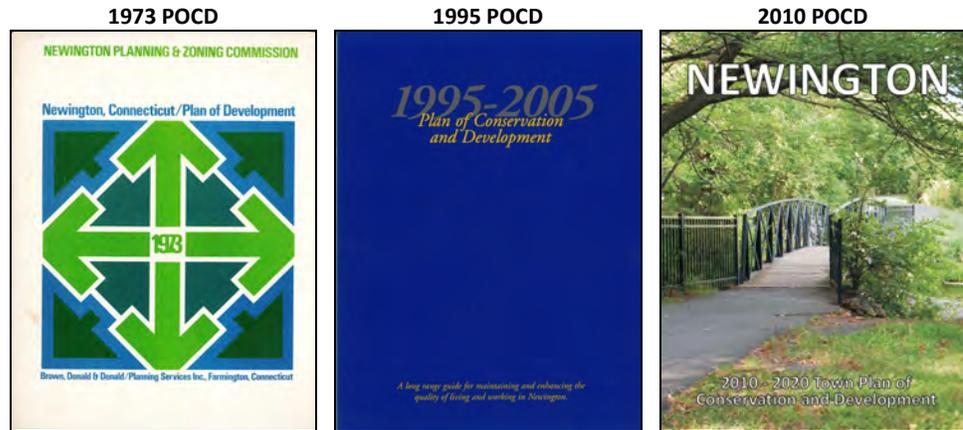
The strategies in the POCD are intended to reflect a consensus of what is considered desirable for Newington and its residents in the future.



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Prior Plans

Newington prepared and adopted POCDs in the past to address community issues and opportunities and this POCD is being prepared for the same reasons.



The preparation and adoption of a POCD is a responsibility of a municipal planning commission (as per Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes).

POCD Preparation Process

The POCD was prepared by the TPZ with assistance from Town Staff and a planning consultant. Public participation occurred throughout the planning process so that the POCD would reflect a consensus on Newington's vision for its future.

The process involved the following elements:

- Independent research / investigation by a planning consultant
- Community meetings to help understand community concerns
- Preparation of briefing booklets covering key POCD topics based on the 2010 POCD and independent research / investigation
- Review / discussion of briefing booklets by the TPZ intended to generate consensus on planning strategies for Newington's future
- Preparation of a first draft of a POCD
- Review / discussion of POCD first draft by the TPZ
- Community meeting to get feedback on revised POCD draft
- Refinement of POCD by TPZ based on community input
- Adoption of updated POCD

EXCERPTS FROM CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 8-23

Plan of Conservation and Development

A Planning Commission shall:

- Prepare, adopt and amend a plan of conservation and development ...
- Review the plan of conservation and development at least once every ten years ...
- Adopt such amendments to the plan or parts of the plan ... as the commission deems necessary to update the plan.

The Plan of Conservation and Development shall:

- be a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality, ...
- Show the commission's recommendation for the most desirable use of land within the municipality for residential, recreational, commercial, ... conservation, agricultural and other purposes and for the most desirable density of population in the ... parts of the municipality.
- Be designed to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated development of the municipality and the general welfare and prosperity of its people.
- Make provision for the development of housing opportunities, including opportunities for multifamily dwellings consistent with soil types, terrain and infrastructure capacity, for all residents of the municipality and the planning region ...
- Promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing, including housing for both low and moderate income households, and encourage the development of housing which will meet the housing needs ...
- Take into account the state plan of conservation and development ... and note any inconsistencies it may have with said state plan.
- Consider the use of cluster development to the extent consistent with soil types, terrain, and infrastructure capacity.
- Consider the ... protection and preservation of agriculture,

The Plan of Conservation and Development may:

- Show the commission's recommendation for a system of principal thoroughfares, parkways, bridges, streets and other public ways; for airports, parks, playgrounds and other public grounds; for general location, relocation and improvement of public buildings; for the general location and extent of public utilities and terminals, whether publicly or privately owned for water, sewerage, light, power, transit and other purposes; and for the extent and location of public housing projects.
- Include recommended programs for the implementation of the plan ...
- (Include) such other recommendations ... in the plan as will ... be beneficial to the municipality.

POCD Vision

As part of preparing this POCD, the vision statements from the 2010 were reviewed, refined, and carried forward as part of this POCD:

Vision Statements

Newington will continue to protect its environmental resources, particularly its wetlands and Cedar Mountain. Identifying additional open space and striving to create an open space system will be a priority as will the stewardship of the community's land resources. Newington will continue to maintain its historic resources, housing stock, public buildings, parks, schools and infrastructure at the highest quality possible.

Newington will continue to be *primarily* a medium density single-family, owner-occupied community, with safe neighborhoods and excellent community services. Newington will seek ways to diversify its housing mix to meet the changing housing needs of present and future residents.

Newington will place a high priority on the vitality of its Town Center; the appearance of the Center; and the Center's location as the place for governmental and institutional buildings. Newington will strive to maintain the Center's New England character and compact size and discourage expansion into adjacent residential areas.

Newington will look at ways to take advantage of transportation services (such as a proposed rail station and the existing CT Fastrak busway stations) to enhance the community, including its economy and housing portfolio.

Newington will continue to recognize that the quality of life in the community is influenced and enhanced by the non-residential land uses that support the Town's grand list. While these uses are essential to a vibrant and economically successful community; changes in zoning districts will be evaluated based on the characteristics of the surrounding area.

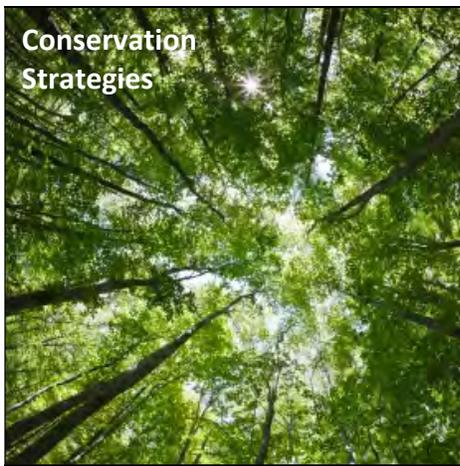
Newington will use its location within the Capitol Region as an asset to encourage new development and the reuse of older sites in harmony with surrounding areas.

POCD Organization

Following this Introduction, the POCD contains a summary of the conditions and trends affecting Newington at the time this POCD was being prepared and an outline of input and feedback from residents about issues important to them.

Then, the chapters of the POCD are organized around four main thematic elements used to organize the goals and strategies for the future of Newington. Each element contains one or more chapters addressing specific topics of importance to Newington going forward.

Following these four strategic elements, there are sections on plan consistency and implementation.



Terms Explained

The POCD contains two types of recommendations or strategies. These are located at the end of each policy chapter of the POCD

Policies are statements in **black text** suggesting ways that Newington should evaluate proposed activities or initiatives to implement the POCD. Note that policies may never be considered “implemented” since they are intended to be on-going.

Action steps are specific tasks in **red text** which can be taken to implement the POCD. Action steps can be considered implemented when complete.

Using The Town Plan

Implementation is the most important part of the planning process and a key focus in this POCD. Even though the POCD is an advisory document, it is intended to:

- Provide a framework for consistent decision-making in Newington over the next decade or so, and
- Guide local boards and commissions in such efforts.

Several elements of this POCD have been specifically configured to promote implementation:

1. **Action Steps Specifically Called Out** – Action steps (described in the sidebar) have a separate table to highlight the *pro-active steps* that should be taken to implement the POCD.
2. **Policies Organized** – Policies (described in the sidebar) have been organized to facilitate their use by the TPZ (and others) to evaluate potential actions in terms of POCD consistency, such as:
 - Zoning amendments (text or map changes).
 - Preparing its advisory report to the Town Council when reviewing municipal improvement requests (as provided in CGS Section 8-24).
 - Reviewing inter-town zoning and subdivision referral notices for advisory reports to the Capitol Region Council of Governments.
 - Reviewing and commenting on the Capital Improvement Plan’s recommended project schedule.
3. **Leaders / Partners Identified** – Each policy and action step in the POCD has a leader (and often one or more partners) identified. These are the entities most responsible for implementation of that policy or action step. Experience has shown that specifically identifying the responsible entity has a dramatic effect on implementation. A legend for acronyms used to identify leaders and partners is on the inside back cover.

Policies And Action Steps

Vehicular Transportation Strategies		Leaders / Partners
A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)		
1. Continue to address potentially hazardous issues (safety and security) on State Highways while minimizing possible impact to property outside the road right of way.		DOH FD
2. Continue to address potentially hazardous issues (safety and security) on local roadways while minimizing possible impact to property outside the road right of way.		PW FD TE
3. Strive to direct non-residential traffic to the arterial and collector street network and discourage it from using local residential streets (traffic calming).		FD
4. Strive to fund maintenance of local roadways as efficiently and economically as possible.		PW TC
5. Maintain the quality of streets through a comprehensive capital improvement program.		TC Town PW
B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Revitalize the pavement management system in order to be able to systematically track pavement condition over time.		PW TE
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Institute the storm management provisions (24 Section 5.3.4.6) from a site plan subdivision requirement to a district regulatory section.		TE TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Complete installation of a roundabout at Kiser Road / Elm Grove Boulevard.		DOH
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Undertake intersection improvements on Cedar Street at the location of the proposed town station (which may include reconfiguration of the Atkins Road / Maple Hill Avenue intersection).		DOH
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Repair / rebuild bridge.		PW DOH

CONDITIONS & TRENDS



Overview

This section of the POCD provides a general overview of conditions and trends affecting Newington at the time the 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development was being prepared.

History of Newington

The landform of the area we now know as Newington evolved over millions of years as a result of geologic forces. Native Americans are known to have inhabited this area for the past 10,000 years or so. European discovery and settlement of New England by the English and Dutch began in the early 1600s. Settlement in this area began in the 1630s at Windsor, Hartford (Dutch Point), Wethersfield and Old Saybrook.

As population grew in these early settlements, people moved further outward in order to have land to farm and to support their families. The area we now know as Newington was settled by people from the Wethersfield colony after a land “purchase” around 1665. Early settlers were generally subsistence farmers.

Over time, settlers became frustrated over the rigors of travelling to Wethersfield to participate in religious and governmental meetings, especially during the winter months. In 1713, permission was granted to establish a separate parish named Wethersfield West which was renamed Newington in 1721. Residents still had to travel to Wethersfield for town meetings.

This relationship worked well for the next 160 years or so. However, disagreements with Wethersfield over dedication of tax revenues towards desired road improvements led to an effort to incorporate as a separate municipality. This petition was approved in 1871 and Newington became the 166th municipality in Connecticut.

The advent of the trolley car, bus service, and the automobile brought more growth in the early 20th century and Newington grew rapidly, especially after World War II. Newington’s geographical location in the center of the state, proximity to Hartford, plus great improvement in highways have attracted many new residents and businesses over the years.

Newington’s Population

1880	934
1890	953
1900	1,041
1910	1,689
1920	2,381
1930	4,572
1940	5,449
1950	9,110
1960	17,664
1970	26,037
1980	28,841
1990	29,208
2000	29,306
2010	30,562
2020	31,185
2030	32,576
2040	34,156

US Census data for 1870 to 2010. Projections by the Connecticut State Data Center based on a cohort survival model.

People Of Newington

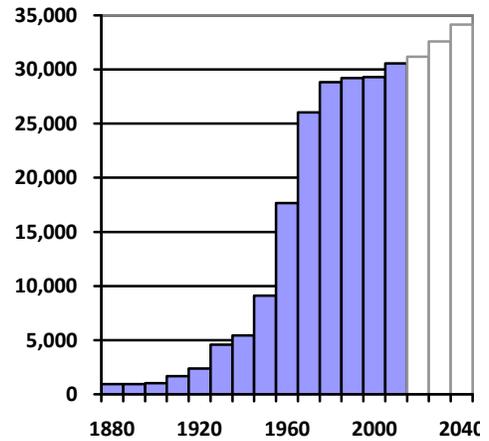
The American Community Survey estimates that Newington had a population of 30,603 people in 2017. This represents a modest increase of 41 people from the 30,562 persons reported in the 2010 Census.

As can be seen from the adjacent table and chart, Newington grew significantly between about 1945 and 1980.

Population projections, which extrapolate recent trends (birth rates, death rates, net migration) into the future, suggest that the number of Newington residents will increase in the future.

Of course, it must be remembered that these are projections and variations can occur, especially further into the future.

1880 – 2010 Population (with projections to 2040)

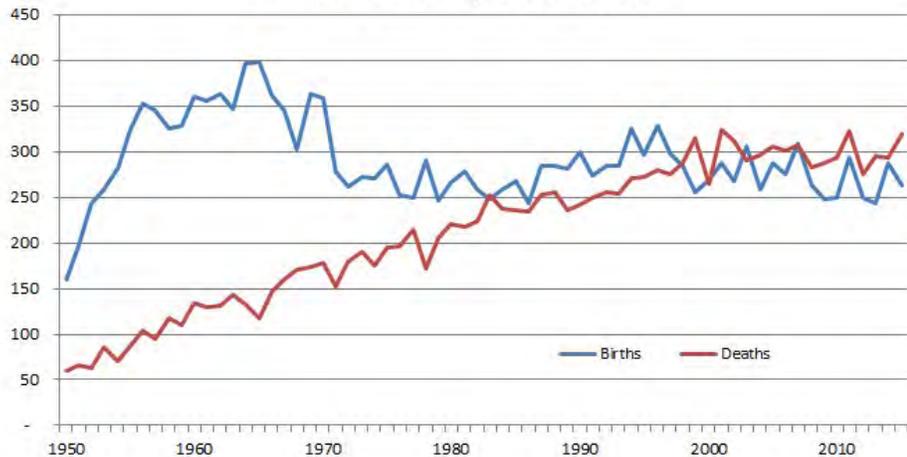


US Census

Population Change Driven Mostly By Net Migration

As can be seen by the following chart, the number of births and deaths in Newington has fluctuated over time due to demographic and economic factors. Births were quite pronounced in the 1950s and 1960s during what is referred to as the “baby boom” (a nation-wide surge in births between 1945 and 1965). Natural increase (births minus deaths) has been flat since the year 2000 or so.

Births & Deaths (1950 - 2015)



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Overall, population has grown in Newington in each of the last six decades has been driven by net in-migration of new residents. In the last two decades, the net in-migration has offset a natural decrease of population where the number of deaths exceeded the number of births.

Components of Population Change						
	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
If the Census indicates the population changed this much in this decade ...	+8,554	+8,373	+2,804	+367	+98	+1,256
And this much “natural change” occurred as a result of births and deaths ...	+1,960	+2,154	+905	+306	(36)	(201)
Births	+2,817	+3,593	+2,765	+2,671	+2,930	+2,770
Deaths	(857)	(1,439)	(1,860)	(2,365)	(2,966)	(2,971)
The net change in people moving in (or out) of Newington during the decade was ...	+6,594	+6,219	+1,899	+61	+134	+1,457

US Census, Connecticut Health Department reports, Planimetrics

The impact of migration is an important consideration in Newington since Census data shows that ***almost 45 percent*** of all households in Newington moved to their housing unit in the prior decade.

Decade That 2010 Householder Moved To Housing Unit

	2000	2010	Share Of All Units	2000s Change	Retention Rate
2000s	-	5,349	44%	+5,349	-
1990s	5,808	2,648	22%	-3,160	46%
1980s	2,314	1,461	12%	-853	63%
1970s or earlier	3,892	2,673	22%	-1,219	69%
Total	12,014	12,131	100%		-

2000 Census, 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

From looking at the changes in age composition over the decades (and interpolating net migration), it appears that Newington tends to attract young adults (ages 25 to 39) and their children. These are the age groups most associated with renters and first-time homebuyers.

While there is some net out-migration above age 50, this number is modest and is dwarfed by the number of people aging into these age cohorts.

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Newington’s Median Age

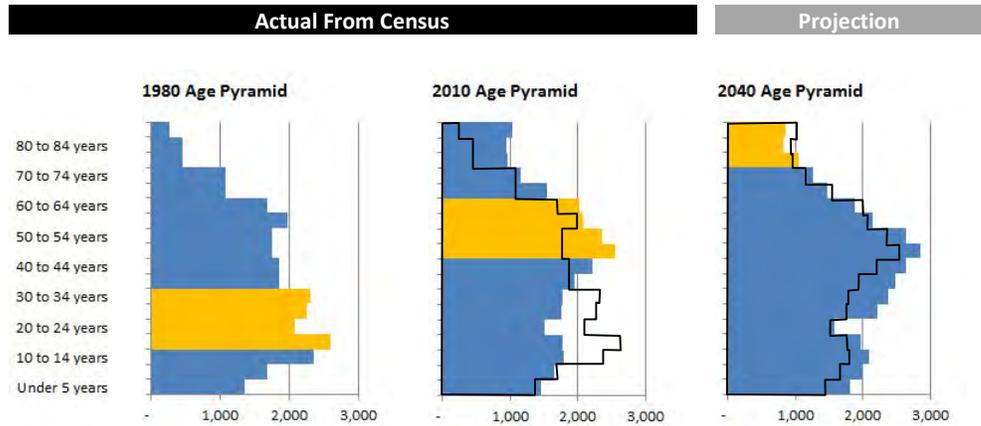
1960	32.6
1970	30.2
1980	34.5
1990	39.0
2000	41.9
2010	43.6
2020 (proj.)	42.6
2030 (proj.)	41.1
2040 (proj.)	41.0

US Census, Planimetrics

Newington’s Age Composition Is Changing

Overall, the changing age composition of Newington may be the most significant demographic consideration. The following age composition charts show the number of people in each 5-year age group (by the width of the bar) from 1980 to 2010 with projections to 2040.

People considered part of the “baby boom” (people born between about 1945 and 1965) are shown in orange. The black outlines show the age composition 30 years earlier so that changes can be seen more readily.



Estimates from the American Community Survey for 2017 indicate that:

- About 27 percent of all Newington households have one or more people under the age of 18 (potential school children), and
- About 43 percent of all Newington households have one or more people 60 years of age or older.

Newington Is Becoming More Diverse

In addition to a changing age composition, Newington is changing in other ways as well. Similar to the state and the nation, Newington is becoming a more racially and ethnically diverse community.

Community Diversity (1980 - 2010)

	1980	1990	2000	2010
White	28,274	28,197	27,393	26,436
Non-White	567	1,011	1,913	4,126
Percent Non-White	2%	4%	7%	14%
Non-Hispanic	28,507	28,596	28,227	28,254
Hispanic	334	612	1,079	2,308
Percent Hispanic	1%	2%	4%	8%

1980 – 2000 Census

Economy Of Newington

A local economy is important in terms of:

- Providing for jobs and income for people,
- Ensuring a range of goods and services is available, and
- Providing tax revenue to support local services.

There are over 950 businesses in Newington and the town is known for its retail shopping opportunities along the Berlin Turnpike and the business and industry located in local industrial parks and elsewhere in the community.

Median household income (half the households earn more and half the households earn less) is one way to gauge the strength of the local economy.

The value of taxable property in a municipality is important because it supports municipal budgets and services provided within the community. The percent of the real estate tax base that is comprised of businesses is an important consideration to many people since business uses typically provide revenue but do not demand as much in services. This revenue is then available to provide services that primarily benefit residents of the community.

Jobs In Newington

1963	8,035
1970	12,421
1980	13,400
1990	1,7330
2000	18,070
2010	16,186
2016	16,839

CT Labor Dept.

Jobs In The Municipality	
Hartford	111,165
West Hartford	28,758
New Britain	24,803
Rocky Hill	17,370
Newington	16,839
Berlin	11,775
Wethersfield	10,201

CERC, 2019

Jobs / Housing Balance	
Hartford	2.1
Rocky Hill	2.0
Berlin	1.4
Newington	1.3
West Hartford	1.1
Wethersfield	0.9
New Britain	0.8

CERC, 2019

Self-Employment Rate	
West Hartford	11.0%
Berlin	9.2%
Wethersfield	8.9%
Newington	7.1%
Rocky Hill	6.3%
Hartford	5.4%
New Britain	5.0%

CERC, 2019

Median Household Income	
Berlin	\$93,750
West Hartford	\$91,875
Rocky Hill	\$81,988
Newington	\$80,315
Wethersfield	\$78,371
New Britain	\$41,844
Hartford	\$32,095

CERC, 2019

Per Capita Grand List	
Rocky Hill	\$158,725
Berlin	152,031
West Hartford	\$148,220
Newington	\$126,985
Wethersfield	\$118,513
Hartford	\$52,709
New Britain	\$50,285

CERC, 2019

Percent Business Tax Base	
Hartford	35%
Rocky Hill	23%
Newington	19%
Berlin	17%
New Britain	15%
West Hartford	14%
Wethersfield	10%

CERC, 2019

Historic Housing Stock

1960	4,972
1970	7,655
1980	10,445
1990	11,609
2000	12,264
2010	12,550

Historic - 1900 - 2010 Census.

Average Household Size

1960	3.55
1970	3.40
1980	2.77
1990	2.56
2000	2.44
2010	2.43

Historic - 1900 - 2010 Census.

Housing In Newington

Overall Housing Growth

According to the American Community Survey, Newington had about 12,871 housing units in 2017. From 1990 to 2010, Newington added an average of about 47 housing units per year. This is well below the growth rate in prior decades when Newington was adding about 160 to 270 housing units per year.

While there is only a limited amount of undeveloped land remaining, there could be potential for additional housing development through redevelopment of existing properties.

Housing Occupancy

Over time, the number of people per occupied housing unit in Newington has been decreasing (although it may have stabilized between 2000 and 2010). In 2010, about 62 percent of all housing units in Newington were occupied by one or two people. Only about 3 in 8 households contained more than two residents.

If household sizes were to continue to get smaller and no new housing units were built, Newington would have a lower population in the future. In the past, Newington has added enough new housing units to offset the fact that exiting housing units are occupied by fewer people.

Single-Family Detached Home



Single-Family Detached Home



Townhouse (Piper Brook)



Multi-Unit Building (Bradford Commons)



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Newington has a diverse housing stock. About 64% of all housing units in Newington are single-family detached homes and the other units are in 2-4 family dwellings or multi-family buildings. About 78% of all housing units in Newington are owner-occupied.

Housing affordability is an issue throughout Connecticut and communities are recognizing that community vitality, community diversity, and economic development can all be enhanced by having a housing portfolio which includes affordable units. Measures of affordability include units which:

- Represent “naturally occurring” affordable housing since they sell or rent at prices affordable to low- and moderate-income persons and families, and
- Meet the statutory definition of “affordable housing” (see sidebar).

Newington has a number of housing units which are naturally affordable to low- and moderate-income persons and families. While Newington has almost 1,100 units meeting the statutory definition of “affordable housing”, this represents less than 10 percent of the local housing stock and so Newington is subject the State affordable housing appeals procedure.

Affordable Housing Defined

In order for a housing unit to qualify as an affordable unit under CGS 8-30g, a dwelling must be:

- Governmentally assisted housing (funded under a state or federal program);
- Occupied by a person receiving tenant rental assistance under a program for income-qualifying persons or families);
- Financed under a government program for income-qualifying persons or families; or
- Housing that is deed restricted to be affordable to low- or moderate-income persons or families for at least 40 years.

Percent Single Family	
Berlin	76%
Wethersfield	74%
West Hartford	66%
Newington	64%
Rocky Hill	48%
New Britain	29%
Hartford	15%

CERC, 2019

Percent Owner-Occupied	
Berlin	83%
Newington	78%
Wethersfield	76%
West Hartford	71%
Rocky Hill	66%
New Britain	45%
Hartford	24%

CERC, 2019

Average Household Size	
Hartford	2.7
Berlin	2.6
New Britain	2.6
West Hartford	2.6
Newington	2.4
Rocky Hill	2.4
Wethersfield	2.4

CERC, 2019

Until 10% of a community’s housing stock is affordable, it is subject to an affordable housing appeals procedure that shifts the burden of proof to the community to show that threats to public health or safety outweigh the need for affordable housing.

Median Sales Price	
West Hartford	\$318,800
Berlin	\$288,000
Rocky Hill	\$254,400
Wethersfield	\$246,200
Newington	\$228,000
Hartford	\$159,100
New Britain	\$157,300

CERC, 2019

Median Rent	
Rocky Hill	\$1,304
West Hartford	\$1,236
Newington	\$1,163
Berlin	\$1,097
Wethersfield	\$1,025
New Britain	\$925
Hartford	\$914

CERC, 2019

Pct. “Affordable” Housing	
Hartford	38%
New Britain	18%
Wethersfield	9%
Berlin	9%
Newington	8%
West Hartford	8%
Rocky Hill	5%

CERC, 2019

Terminology

Developed Land – land that has buildings, structures, or improvements used for a particular economic or social purpose (such as residential or institutional).

Committed Land – land that is used for a particular economic or social purpose (such as roads or open space).

Vacant Land – land that is not developed or committed.

Dedicated Open Space - land owned by the Federal government, the State, the Town, land trusts, or conservation organizations intended to remain for open space purposes.

Managed Open Space - land owned by non-government organizations which is used for other purposes, but provides open space benefits.

Land Use In Newington

According to digital mapping, Newington contains approximately 8,383 acres. A summary of land use information based on the assessor’s records found that about 93 percent of Newington’s land area had been developed or committed to different uses and about 580 acres could be available for conservation and/or development in the future.

	Acres	Percent of Developed / Committed	Percent of Total Area
Residential Uses	3,485	45%	42%
Single-Family Residential			
2-4 F Residential			
Multi-Family Residential			
Business Uses	1,382	18%	16%
Business / Commercial			
Industrial / Technology			
Open Space	1,133	15%	14%
Dedicated Open Space			
Managed Open Space / Water Co.			
Community Facility / Institutional	699	9%	8%
Community Facilities			
Institutional			
Other	1,104	14%	13%
Roads / Rail / Busway			
Utility			
Developed / Committed	7,804	100%	92%
Vacant	580		7%
Total	8,383		100%

Planimetrics and New England GeoSystems based on Assessor database. Totals may not add due to rounding

Residential Use

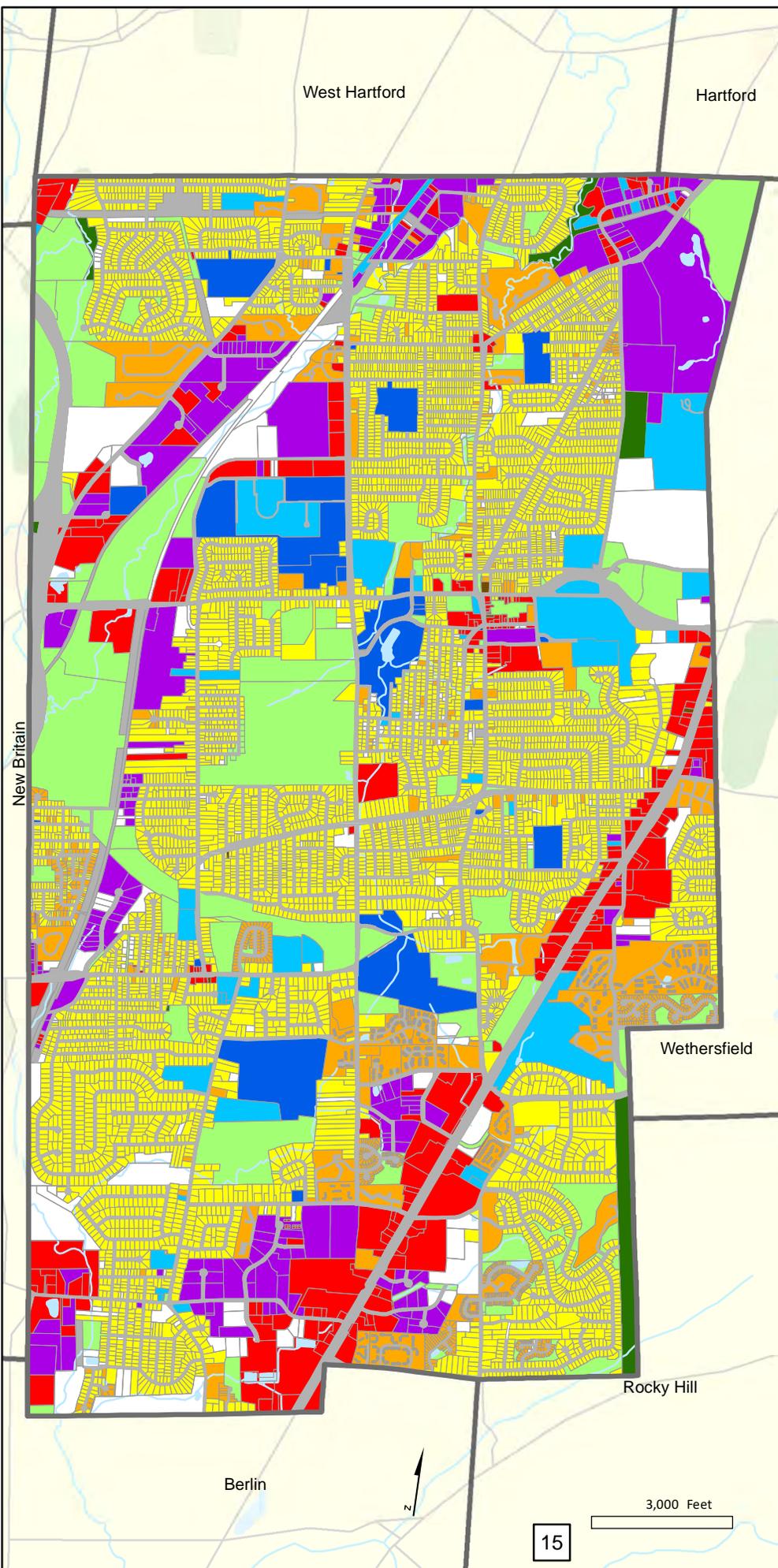


Business Use



Land Use

Newington, CT



Residential

- Single Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential

Business / Industrial

- Business / Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Industrial

Institutional

- Community Facility
- Institutional

Open Space

- Dedicated Open Space
- Managed Open Space

Other

- Utility / Transportation
- Vacant

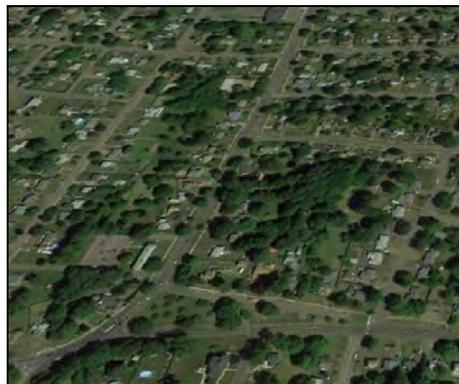
Zoning In Newington

According to digital mapping of the community, about 58 percent of Newington is zoned for residential development. Approximately 25 percent of the community is zoned for business development and industrial development.

	Acres	Percent of Total Land Area
Residential	4,891	58%
R-7 – About 5.0 units per acre	147	
R-12 – About 3.0 units per acre	2,774	
R-20 – About 2.0 units per acre	1,235	
RP – Planned Residential	576	
RD – Designed Residential	159	
Business	1,052	13%
Business – Town Center	43	
Business / Commercial Development	89	
Business – Berlin Turnpike	155	
Planned Development	766	
Industrial	985	12%
Industrial	985	
Other Zones	961	11%
Open Space	767	
Public Land	194	
Non-Zoned	493	7%
Roads / Rights-Of-Way		
Total	8,383	100%

Planimetrics and New England GeoSystems based on Assessor database. Totals may not add due to rounding

Residential Zoned Area



Business Zoned Area



Zoning

Newington, CT

Residential

- R-7 Residential
- R-12 Residential
- R-20 Residential
- RD Residential Designed
- RP Residential Planned

Business

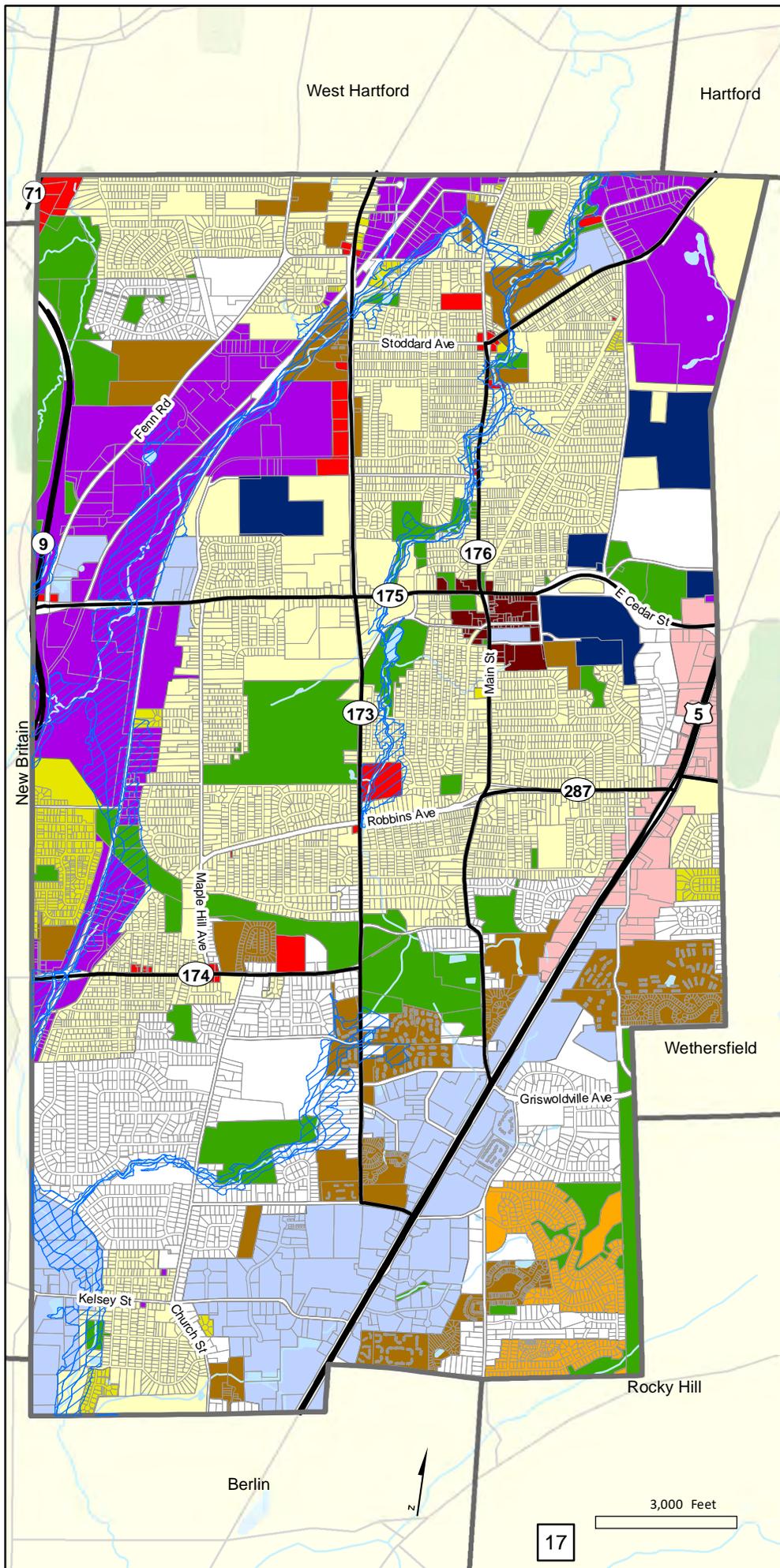
- B-TC Business - Town Center
- B / CD Business / Comm. Dev.
- B-BT Business - Berlin Turnpike
- PD Planned Development

Industrial

- I Industrial

Other

- OS Open Space
- PL Public Land
- 100-Year Flood Plain



Fiscal Overview

Key fiscal indicators which reflect the circumstances affecting Newington and surrounding communities are presented below.

Equalized mill rate is a way to compare the mill rate between municipalities since it is based on the full market value of all taxable property in a municipality estimated by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Equalized Mill Rate		Per Capita Tax Levy	
Hartford	40.47	West Hartford	\$3,642
New Britain	33.29	Berlin	\$3,244
Wethersfield	27.16	Wethersfield	\$3,219
West Hartford	24.57	Newington	\$3,006
Newington	23.67	Rocky Hill	\$2,985
Berlin	21.34	Hartford	\$2,133
Rocky Hill	18.81	New Britain	\$1,674

CERC, 2019

Percent State Aid		Education Share of Spending	
Hartford	50%	Newington	67%
New Britain	44%	Wethersfield	64%
Newington	22%	West Hartford	64%
Wethersfield	17%	New Britain	61%
Berlin	16%	Berlin	60%
West Hartford	16%	Rocky Hill	57%
Rocky Hill	15%	Hartford	57%

CERC, 2019

Community Issues & Concerns

As part of updating the POCD, a public workshop meeting was held to give residents and property owners an opportunity to identify issues they felt were important to consider as part of the POCD. More information about the exercises conducted and the input received is contained in a summary report on file in the Town Planner's office.

Meeting participants were asked to think of things about Newington they were proud of. This exercise tends to reveal the types of things that attract people to Newington, contribute to the overall quality of life, and what people might want to encourage in Newington in the future (number of mentions in parentheses):

- Community Facilities (100)
- Community Character (60)
- Open Space (38)
- Town Center (11)
- Business Development (10)

Map of "Prouds"



Residents were also asked to identify things in Newington they were sorry about. This exercise tends to reveal the types of things in Newington that might irritate people, detract from the overall quality of life, and what people might want to discourage in Newington in the future:

- Vehicular Transportation(42)
- Community Character (31)
- Business Development (29)
- Pedestrian / Bike / Transit (26)
- Community Facilities (22)
- Other (40)

Map of "Sorrys"



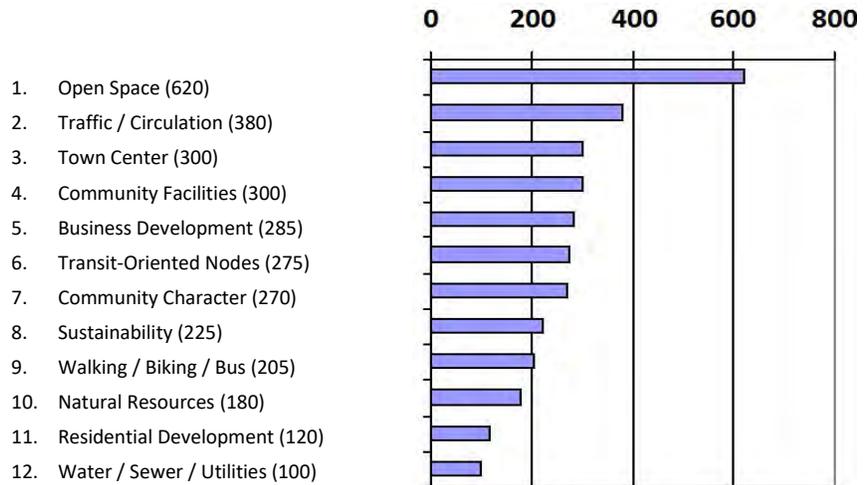
PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Planning Points Exercise

People attending the meeting were given five vouchers representing “planning points” (one @ 20 points, two @ 10 points each, and two @ 5 points each) to allocate among twelve boxes representing topics being considered for Newington’s POCD.

Residents were asked to allocate the planning points in the boxes to reflect what they felt was important to them and/or for the community to address as part of the planning process.

Although an unscientific survey, participants at the meeting used “planning points” to express their feeling about topics typically considered as part of a POCD. When ranked in the order of points received, the topics identified as being ***most important*** to consider in the POCD included:



Thoughts and feelings expressed of participants at the meeting included the following:

- Newington should preserve more open space.
- Traffic is a real problem at times, especially Cedar Street.
- The Town Center is prime real estate and can and should be improved.
- The Town should maintain the community facilities we have.
- Newington should maintain a strong tax base and fill empty spaces in existing buildings.
- Transit nodes (the proposed train station and the two CTFAstrak stations) are the biggest opportunity and the biggest challenge for Newington.
- Newington appears and feels like a small community and should continue to do things that preserve / enhance community character.
- Newington should strive to become a more sustainable community.
- Newington should make sure this POCD is implemented

NATURAL RESOURCES

Continue to protect water quality and other natural resources.



Protection of natural resources in Newington is important in terms of preserving environmental functions, protecting community character, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. The overall goals are to:

- Ensure that environmentally significant areas are preserved in their natural condition and allow passive recreation and/or educational use.
- Protect groundwater and streams from degradation from direct discharges (point sources) and non-point sources of pollution.

Water Resources

Water resources in Newington include:

- Surface Water - Surface water features such as brooks, streams, and ponds can be the most visible water-related resources.
- Wetlands – Wetlands and vernal pools help maintain water quality, control flooding, and support biodiversity in Newington.
- Groundwater - Groundwater resources store significant amounts of water which helps maintain base flows in streams and rivers.
- Floodplains - Flooding along watercourses is a natural phenomenon associated with spring thaws and major storm events.

Preserving and protecting water quality may be the most important natural resource strategy in Newington. Protection of water quality can occur by:

- Preserving wetland areas and other natural drainage systems due to their important natural functions,
- Providing vegetated buffers (ideally of natural vegetation) along watercourses and waterbodies,
- Implementing “low impact development” (LID) practices to address the quality of stormwater runoff and help recharge groundwater supplies.
- Reducing or eliminating erosion and sedimentation, and
- Discouraging the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides,

Drainage issues can be a challenge in some areas of Newington. Much development in Newington occurred before knowledge of runoff dynamics was as evolved as it is today. Tighter soil types and flatter topography can slow the ability of water runoff to discharge in a timely way in many areas in Newington.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Land Resources

The key land resource in Newington is Cedar Mountain, one of seven traprock ridgelines in Connecticut. This unique landform is significant due to the natural habitats it provides and the plants and animals it supports. The scenic views to and from Cedar Mountain are a key element in the overall aesthetic character of Newington.

Since 2005 Newington has had regulations in place (Zoning Regulations Section 4.4.6) to protect the Cedar Mountain traprock ridgeline and adjacent areas. In recognition of this important natural resources, Newington has acquired ownership and easements of key properties along the ridgeline (such as some land at the state-owned Cedarcrest Hospital site on Russell Road) in order to continue to preserve its important environmental and cultural functions.

Plant and Animal Resources

Newington supports a variety of plant and animal habitats. Some locations in Newington have been identified by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as “natural diversity areas.” These locations are known to contain endangered, threatened and special concern species and/or significant natural communities.

Trees have been recognized as a key tool for mitigating climate change as well as enhancing community character.

In order to manage biodiversity, Newington will seek to require the use of native species (and remove invasive species and discourage or prohibit their future use) in Newington.

Air Resources

There is growing awareness that air pollutants (including greenhouse gas emissions) are having impacts on people’s quality of life and Newington will seek ways to address this issue in the future.

Piper Brook



View To The West From Cedar Mountain



Natural Resources

Newington, CT

Water Resources

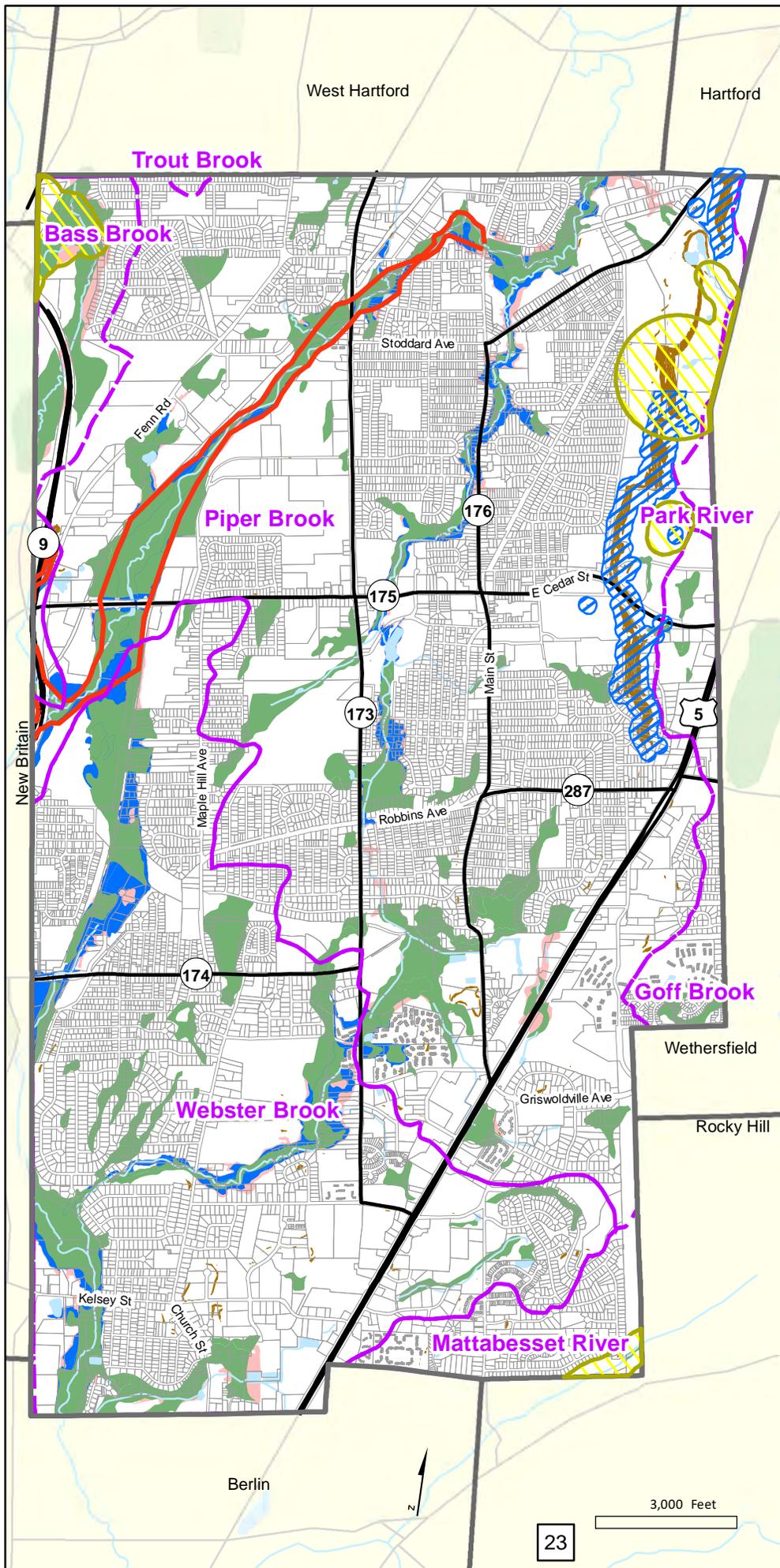
-  Watercourse
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Wetland
-  Channel Encroach. Line
-  100 year Flood Plain
-  500 year Flood Plain

Land Resources

-  USGS Steep_Slope (>25%)
-  Potential Ridgeline Setback Area

Biologic Resources

-  Natural Diversity Database (NDDB)



Natural Resource Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to protect important natural resources such as watercourses, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes and ridgelines (such as Cedar Mountain), and areas listed on the State’s Natural Diversity Database.	CIWC EQC DEEP
2. Continue efforts to maintain and improve water quality in Newington, including implementing “low impact development” techniques, where practical and achievable.	Town TPZ
3. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of trees and tree cover for environmental and aesthetic benefits.	TW EQC
4. Encourage the use of native species and species appropriate to Newington’s climate zone (and discourage the use of invasive species).	CIWC TPZ
5. Promote efforts to maintain and improve air quality such as reducing emissions from idling vehicles and promoting transit-oriented development.	CCHD DEEP
6. Continue to inform and educate residents and businesses about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The importance of protecting natural resources, b. Using native plants in landscaping, c. Reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, and d. Best management practices for protecting water quality. 	CIWC EQC CCHD DEEP
7. Continue to collaborate with other conservation organizations to protect important natural resources.	CIWC DEEP

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Amend the Zoning Regulations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage or require the use of native species (listed on the Connecticut Native Tree and Shrub List) and species appropriate to Newington’s climate zone as part of any TPZ approval, and b. Discourage or prohibit the use of invasive species. 	TPZ
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Create a GIS mapping layer clearly identifying the Ridgeline Setback Area as defined in the Zoning Regulations.	TP Town
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Undertake programs to encourage the preservation, maintenance, and planting of trees for their environmental benefits (such as interception of rainfall, removal of CO2, heat relief, habitat, and other benefits).	CIWC TW

OPEN SPACE



Strive to establish a Town-wide open space system.

Preservation of open space can help protect environmentally sensitive areas, provide wildlife habitat, preserve lands for recreational uses, provide fiscal and economic benefits, protect community character, and enhance quality of life.

The overall goals are to:

- Create a Town-wide open space network.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Protect the small-town character that is here now and provide a sense of space and relief from intensive development.

The term “open space” can have different meanings to different people. For the purposes of the POCD, the term “open space” will be used to refer to land that falls into one of the following categories:

	Dedicated (Protected)	Managed (Unprotected)
Publicly Owned	Town Park State Park	Vacant Town Land Vacant State Land
Privately Owned	Land Trust Deed Restriction	Private Golf Course Cemetery Undeveloped Land

Mill Pond Park



Possible Greenway System



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Open Space

While the Open Space Committee adopted a definition of open space for its purposes, that definition focused mainly on opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation.

The POCD suggests the definition of open space for Newington might be adapted from that used in part (b) of CGS Section 7-131d:

(1) Land identified as being especially valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, conservation of wildlife or natural resources;

(2) Land which includes or contributes to a prime natural feature of the state's landscape, including, but not limited to, ... a river, its ... watershed, an aquifer, ... ridgelines, an inland ... wetland, ... or other important geological feature;

(3) Habitat for native plant or animal species listed as threatened or endangered or of special concern, as defined in section 26-304;

(4) Protects a relatively undisturbed outstanding example of a native ecological community which is now uncommon;

(5) Enhances and conserves water quality of the state's lakes, rivers and coastal water;

(6) preserves local agricultural heritage; ...

Open space and its preservation and protection is important to Newington residents. Perhaps because about 90 percent of the land area of Newington is developed or committed, the remaining undeveloped parcels have considerable significance in the eyes of residents.

Open space linkages can also be key open space amenities. The establishment of open space linkages (also called "greenways"), which may include trails, has been part of Newington's open space strategy for some time.

The key elements of this approach can be:

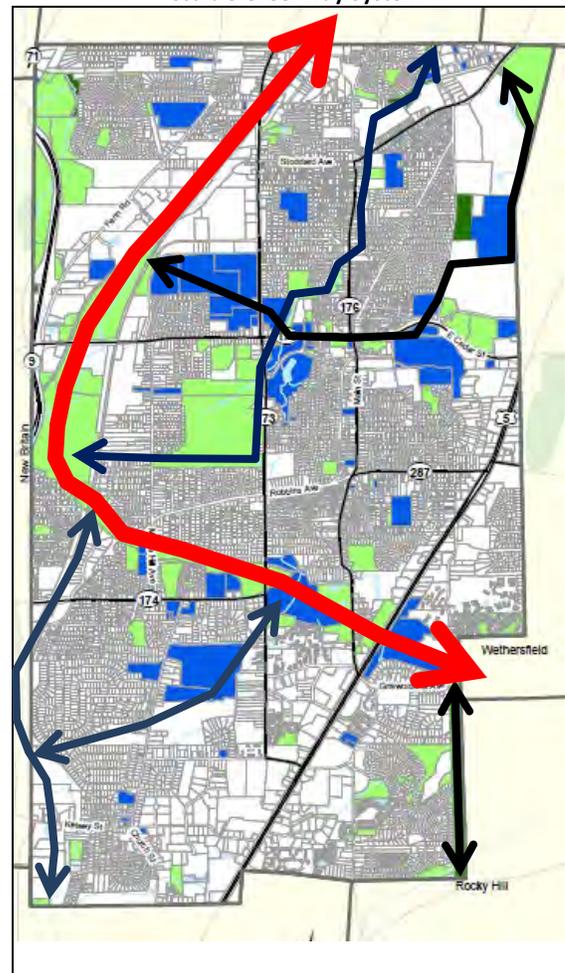
- A main spine along the former I-291 corridor and the CTfastrak busway (red line),
- Linkages along waterway corridors (blue lines), and
- Linkages through existing and future open spaces and institutional lands (black lines).

While making some of these connections may pose a challenge, doing so would enhance the overall value of the open space system (and its economic benefits).

Newington should continue to use available tools to accomplish these goals:

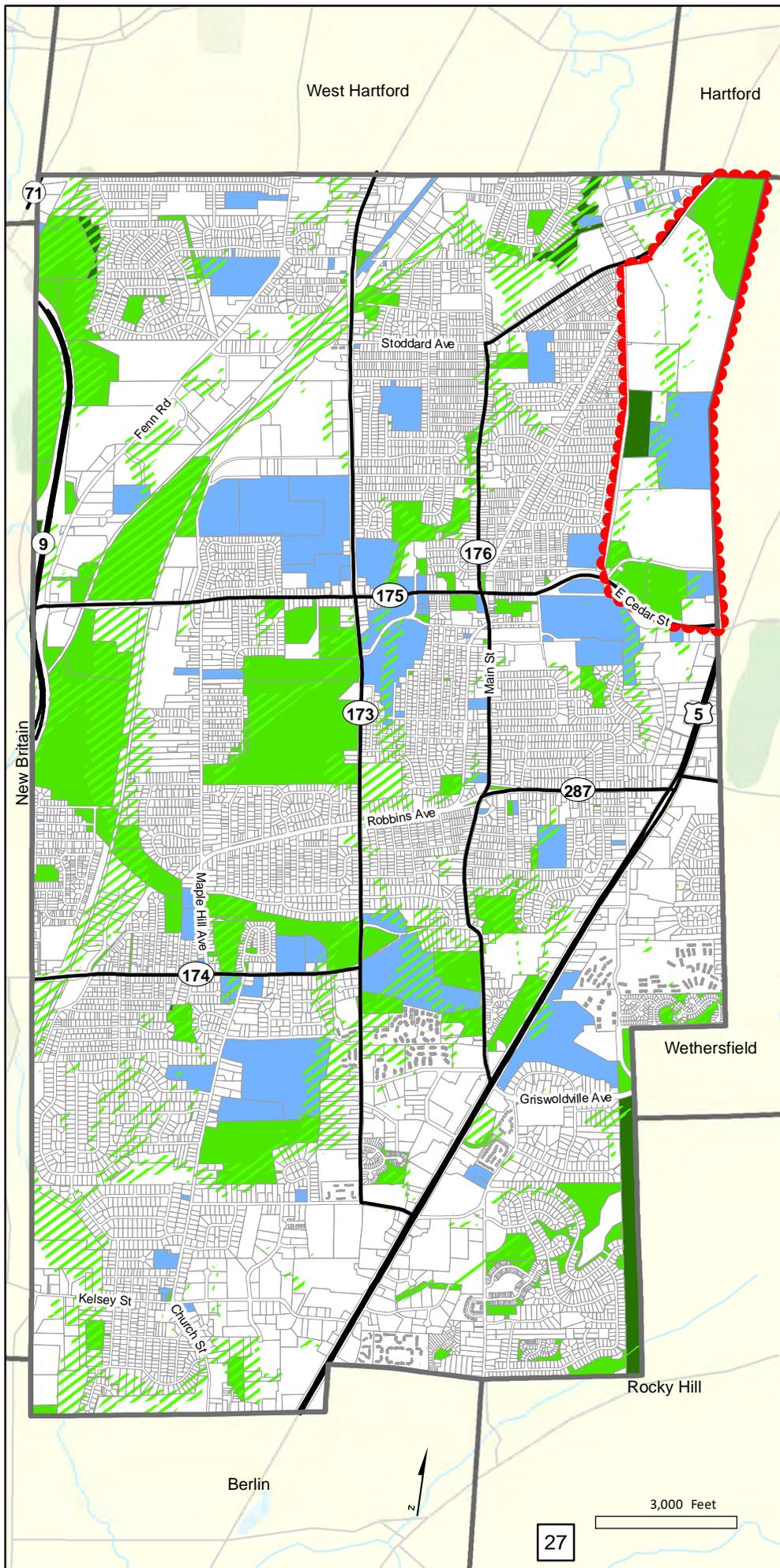
- Open space purchases / donations,
- Grant programs / partnerships with conservation organizations,
- Dedication of conservation easements / access easements,
- Dedication of open space at the time of development, and
- Regulatory provisions (wetland, zoning, subdivision, etc.)

Possible Greenway System



Open Space

Newington, CT



Open Space

- Dedicated Open Space
- Managed Open Space

Institutional

- Community Facility / Institutional

Other

- Natural Resource Constraints
- Cedar Mountain Desirable Open Space Area

Open Space Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to preserve open space in Newington in order to help: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protect important natural resources, b. Preserve and enhance the character of Newington, and c. Link open space areas together as greenway corridors. 	OSC TPZ PRB
2. To help accomplish the vision of open space preservation and linkages, continue to preserve open space (acquisition and/or easements) at the time of development, and seek grant funding and other assistance.	OSC TPZ
3. Preserve Cedar Mountain as open space.	OSC
4. To allow for public access and use, encourage open space set aside as part of a subdivision to be deeded to the Town or to a land trust rather than a conservation easement or homeowner’s association.	OSC TPZ
5. Work with landowners to explore means of preservation of desirable parcels, including a right-of-first-refusal or similar approach.	OSC
6. Seek to make annual appropriation to the Land Acquisition Fund, Article V, Section 48-18, Newington Code of Ordinances.	TC

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Establish a greenway trail segment.	OSC PRB
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Consider preparing an open space plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inventories existing open spaces by ownership / type, b. Identifies open space linkages / greenway corridors, and c. Identifies desired future open space properties. 	OSC
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Review the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Regulations to strengthen ways to preserve open space as part of future development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mandatory provision of open space (or a fee-in-lieu-of), b. Open space development patterns, c. Fee in lieu of open space, and d. Allow dedication of land elsewhere in Newington. 	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Publish maps with useful information about trails and access points for residents and visitors.	OSC PRB
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Amend Section 3.25 of the Zoning Regulations to remove the reference to a page number in the 2010 POCD.	TPZ TP

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Preserve and enhance Newington’s character and sense of community.



The term “community character” refers to the physical and other characteristics which contribute to people’s overall impression of a community. Community character helps give a community a sense of identity and a sense of community.

The overall goal is to preserve and enhance those things, both physical and otherwise, which contribute to the overall character of Newington and the sense of community and small-town character.

Although every Newington resident may have their own perception and interpretation of exactly what “community character” means to them, some common elements that may contribute to Newington’s overall character and quality of life include the following:

- **Natural Resources** – Wetlands, water bodies, hillsides, and other physical features.
- **Scenic Features** – Scenic features, scenic views and similar features.
- **Open Space**– Parks and other preserved lands.
- **Undeveloped Land**– Undeveloped lands that provide visual respite.
- **Recreational Facilities** – Recreational facilities and activities (such as sports fields, recreation facilities, etc.).
- **Key Local Places** – Places such as the Town Center or local facilities (such as the Library).

Historic Resource
(Gen. Martin Kellogg House)



Locally Important Resource
(Eddy Farm)



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

State / National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) identifies resources significant in the history of the nation.

The State Register of Historic Places (SRHP) identifies resources significant in the history of the state. Listings on the National Register are also listed on the State Register.

These designations are not regulatory in nature and only directly affect activities involving federal and/or state funding. Property owners may be eligible for tax benefits for improvements to these resources.

The designations may be for districts (areas containing multiple properties) or for individual properties.

Local Historic Districts

A local historic district is regulatory in nature and regulates exterior changes in view from a public street. Newington does not have any local historic districts.

Enhance Historic Awareness

Newington could encourage the installation of plaques on historic buildings to help people appreciate the richness of historic resources in the community.

This could also be tied into a self-guided tour (web-based or app-based).

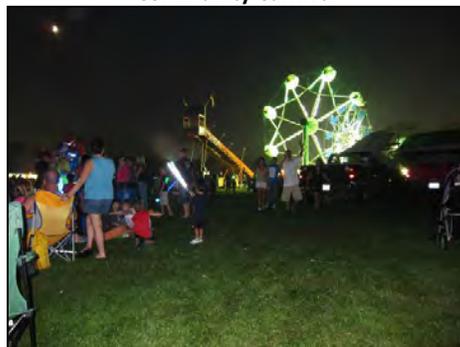
- **Designated Historic Resources** – The following historic resources contribute to Newington’s character (see sidebar for acronyms):

Districts			
A.	Newington Junction North	Willard Ave.	NRHP
B.	Newington Junction South	Willard Ave.	NRHP
C.	Newington Junction West	Willard Ave. / W. Hill Rd.	NRHP
D.	Robbin-Wells Historic District	Robbins Ave. / Main St.	SRHP
Sites			
1.	Gen. Martin Kellogg House	679 Willard Ave.	NRHP
2.	Enoch Kelsey House	1702 Main St.	NRHP
3.	Unni Robbins II House	1692 Main St.	NRHP
4.	Willard Homestead	372 Willard Ave.	NRHP
5.	Newington Junction Railroad Depot	Willard / Francis Aves.	NRHP
6.	Capt. Jonathan Stoddard House	303 Willard Ave.	SRHP
7.	Residence	Deming Street	SRHP
8.	Amos Fairchild House (relocated)	Main Street	SRHP
9.	Deming Young Farm House	282 Church Street	SRHP

- **Locally Important Resources** – Not state or nationally designated but important locally:
 - Eddy Farm,
 - Ancient Burial Ground,
 - Old Highway.
- **Community Events** – Community events in Newington bring residents together to celebrate and share common experiences.

The POCD recommends that these and other attributes that contribute to the overall community character of Newington and the quality of life of residents be maintained and enhanced.

Community Carnival



Community Fireworks



Community Character

Newington, CT

 Town Center

Historic Places

-  National Register Historic Place
-  State Register Historic Place
-  Local Historic Place

Historic Districts

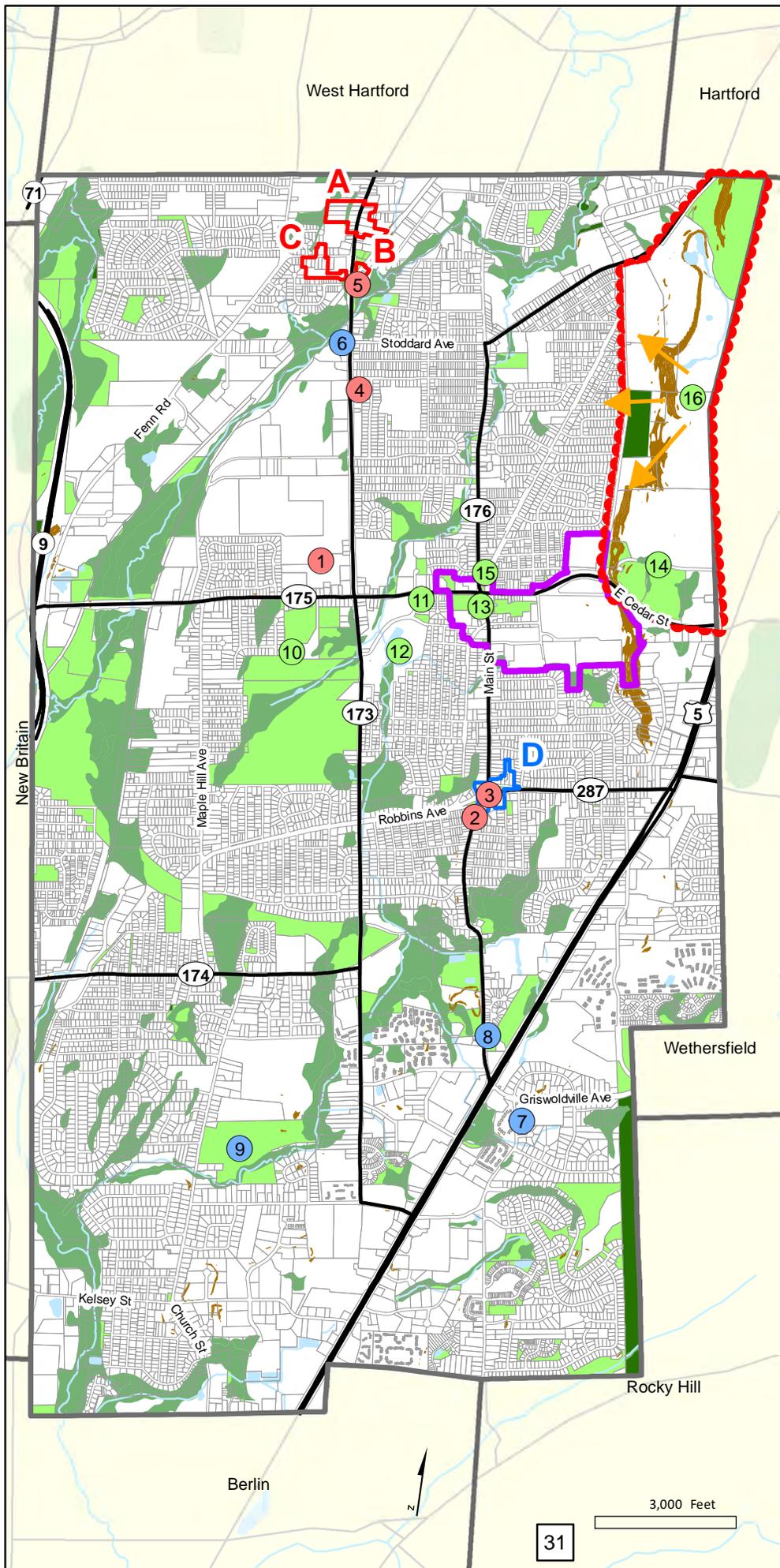
-  National Register Historic District
-  State Register Historic District
-  Cedar Mountain Desirable Open Space Area

Open Space

-  Dedicated Open Space
-  Managed Open Space

Scenic Resources

-  Scenic View
-  Waterbody
-  USGS Steep Slope (>25%)
-  Wetland



Community Character Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to preserve natural resources, open space, scenic resources, and other features (such as Cedar Mountain) that contribute to Newington’s character.	CIWC OSC
2. Continue to encourage the preservation and protection of historical and archeological resources.	MH NHS
3. Promote the maintenance and enhancement of trees and tree cover for environmental and aesthetic benefits.	TW
4. Continue to protect tree canopies from unreasonable destruction as a result of utility pruning or other activities.	TW
5. Continue to promote underground utilities.	Town
6. Continue to implement enforcement programs using the building, housing and fire codes as positive tools to maintain property values.	Town BSC
7. Continue to utilize the blight ordinance and other tools to address blighted structures, clean-up of unkempt parcels, and removal of unused vehicles.	Town BSC
8. Continue to offer residents low interest rehabilitation loan funds through continued participation in the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Small Cities program.	TP
9. Continue to encourage community and civic activities that promote and enhance community pride and spirit (such as annual “clean up” days).	TC PRB
10. Continue efforts to keep people involved in the community as participants and volunteers.	TC

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Establish and enhance “gateway” features at key locations which announce that people are entering Newington.	EDC TC
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Establish and enhance “wayfinding” signage at appropriate places to help guide visitors to local destinations.	EDC TC
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Establish a street tree planting program for residential property owners to plant and maintain trees on their property near the street with consideration to utility locations, roadway and sidewalk maintenance, and other factors.	CIWC TW
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Consider enactment of a “demolition delay ordinance.”	TC
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Consider whether it makes sense to establish a “design review” process for certain types of land uses and/or certain locations.	TPZ TP

SUSTAINABILITY / RESILIENCY

Become a more sustainable and more resilient community.



Sustainability

The concept of sustainability is becoming more prominent in public policy and Newington should start to address these issues. Basic environmental and energy sustainability strategies might include the following:

Theme	Possible Actions
Energy Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing energy use / becoming more energy efficient• Increasing use of renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.)• Providing alternative approaches (fuel cell, micro-grids, etc.)• Considering life-cycle costing in energy-related decisions• Promoting “greener” buildings / vehicles• Providing for electric car charging stations
Water Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing water use• Reducing water waste / recycling water
Waste Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing waste (including food waste)• Reducing use of plastic bags, straws, etc.• Increasing recycling / composting
Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using low-impact development (LID) strategies to address stormwater quality and quantity
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing reliance on fossil fuels• Reducing current / future CO₂ emissions

The concept of economic sustainability is addressed in other sections of the POCD.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Newington and a number of other Connecticut communities are participating in the SustainableCT program (a voluntary program established by a non-profit organization) which helps community measure and report their progress on sustainability. The SustainableCT program incorporates the following concepts:

CONCEPT I.	Thriving Local Economies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites B. Implement Sustainable Purchasing C. Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options D. Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses E. Promote Sustainable Workforce Development F. Participate in and Promote C-Pace Program 	
CONCEPT II.	Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create a Watershed Management Plan B. Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration C. Develop an Open Space Plan D. Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory E. Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use F. Provide Education on Water Conservation G. Implement Low Impact Development (LID) H. Manage Woodlands and Forests I. Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management J. Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program 	
CONCEPT III.	Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Map Tourism and Cultural Assets B. Support Arts and Creative Culture C. Develop a Creative Placemaking Plan D. Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth 	
CONCEPT IV.	Dynamic and Resilient Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development and Zoning B. Adapt Permitting Process to Promote Sustainable Development C. Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices D. Assess Climate Vulnerability E. Inventory and Assess Historic Resources F. Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installations 	
CONCEPT V.	Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Implement Complete Streets B. Promote Effective Parking Management C. Encourage Smart Commuting D. Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment E. Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies 	

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

CONCEPT VI. Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations	
A.	Benchmark and Track Energy Use
B.	Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings
C.	Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings
D.	Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings
E.	Develop a Municipal Energy Plan
F.	Manage Municipal Fleets
G.	Install Efficient Street Lights
H.	Implement a Community Energy Campaign
CONCEPT VII. Strategic and Inclusive Public Services	
A.	Hold a Sustainability Event
B.	Provide Effective Community Communications
C.	Train Municipal Commissions
D.	Encourage Healthy and Sustainable Food Networks
E.	Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste
F.	Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) Program
G.	Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics
H.	Develop a Food Waste Reduction Campaign
I.	Conduct Health Impact Assessments
J.	Encourage Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Spaces
CONCEPT VIII. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing	
A.	Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment
B.	Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options
C.	Benchmark Energy and Water Use for Multifamily Housing
CONCEPT IX. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts	
A.	Optimize for Equity
CONCEPT X. Implement Other Sustainability Actions	

Resilience Strategies

Avoidance-Related

- Identification / avoidance / risk reduction

Mitigation-Related

- Evaluating probability / risk scenarios
- Evaluating approaches (protection / adaptation)
- Balancing of cost / benefit
- Hardening infrastructure (e.g. burying utilities)
- Promoting grid independence / interconnected community

Response-Related

- Pre-event education / training
- Pre-event response plans

Resiliency

For the POCD, resiliency relates to the concept of being able to identify, avoid, minimize, mitigate, absorb and/or recover from impactful events in an efficient and timely way. This can include:

- Mitigation of known hazards such as intense storms, flooding, and similar events (including storm preparation and emergency response).
- Emergency services (such as police, fire, medical).
- Adaptation to climate change including an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms which exceed the infrastructure capacity and/or surpass past storm events.
- Economic disruption.

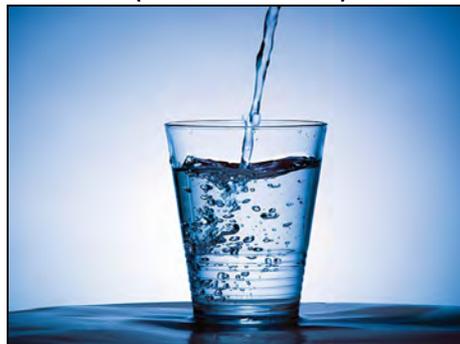
Sustainability / Resiliency Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Strive to become a more sustainable and more resilient community.	Town
2. Incorporate environmental sustainability in municipal decision making: a. Energy consumption. b. Water consumption. c. Waste generation. d. Stormwater management. e. Greenhouse gas emissions.	Town
3. Encourage residents and businesses to include sustainability considerations in their decision making.	Town
4. Continue planning and implementing hazard mitigation strategies (flooding, intense storms, emergency response, etc.).	CPD Town
5. Continue efforts to: a. Identify, avoid, reduce, mitigate, and recover from impactful events. b. Improve preparation / response for impactful events including: • Emergency shelter capacity / supplies, • Redundant energy supply, • “Off-grid” generation (including generators and fuel cells), and • Mobile cellular antennae / charging stations.	CPD PD FD

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Start participating in programs and activities of SustainableCT.	Town
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Implement the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (and update as necessary).	CPD Town
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Review and update land use regulations for ways to promote sustainability (solar collectors, wind turbines, etc.) and resilience.	TPZ TP

Sustainability
(Water Conservation)



Resilience
(Washout From Undersize Culvert)



NEWINGTON TOWN CENTER

Strengthen the Center as a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly area with a strong “sense of place.”



A key issue for the POCD is how to make Newington Town Center more vibrant and attractive and relevant to the needs of the community now and in the future. The overall goals are to encourage pedestrian-friendly development (business and mixed-use buildings) in the Town Center area which:

- Maintains and enhances a vital, useful and functional Town Center.
- Helps strengthen Town Center businesses.
- Supports the desired overall character of Newington and is sensitive to adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Carefully guides the reuse of properties for continued grand list growth.

Newington Town Center should be the major community focal point and the business, civic, institutional, and cultural center of the Town. Just as West Hartford Center reinvented itself following the construction of Westfarms Mall and then evolved itself further with the development of Blueback Square, Newington should strengthen Newington Town Center as a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly place with a strong “sense of place.”

Newington Town Center (looking east toward Cedar Mountain)



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Walk Score

Newington Town Center has a “walk score” of 66 points out of 100. Walk score is an indication of whether there are destinations within a compact area, not whether there are sidewalks or other pedestrian accommodations.

Studies have shown a positive correlation between walk scores and real estate values (sales prices and rental rates).

The most desirable scores are between 70 and 100:

- 90-100 is considered a walkers' paradise where residents don't need to own a car;
- 70-89 is very walkable and residents probably don't need a car.

Below 70 and neighborhoods are somewhat walkable but probably necessitate public transportation, a bike or a car for getting around. A score below 50 means the community is car-dependent, and a score below 25 means residents need to drive everywhere.

The Newington Town Center area has several strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints which are worth contemplating:

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good population in trade area • Good traffic flows • High occupancy • Served by bus transit • Relatively compact area • Shared parking already in place • Focal point for community events

Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of strong anchor • Lack of cohesive “brand” • Lack of casual dining opportunities • Lack of fine dining opportunities • Pedestrian traffic is light / moderate • Parking configuration seen as desolate / inconvenient

Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much land area could be available for future development • Yield per acre (floor area, taxable value, etc.) could be increased significantly • Can change perception / reality • Façade improvements

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial facility interrupts connectivity of uses and pedestrianism • Hard to incorporate properties across Cedar Street as part of a cohesive whole • Retaining a grocery store

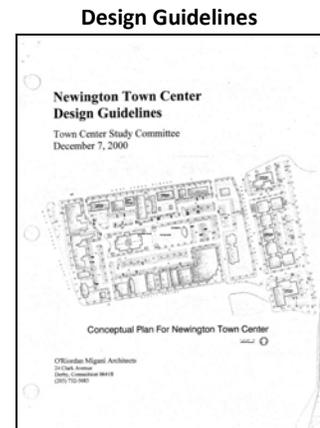
The POCD recommends that Newington seek ways to:

- Build on strengths,
- Overcome weaknesses,
- Seize opportunities, and
- Address constraints.

To do this, it is recommended that a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) be undertaken for the Newington Town Center area in order to:

- establish an overall vision,
- suggest possible regulation changes, and
- set the stage for complementary development.

While Town Center Design Guidelines (which contains a conceptual plan for part of Newington Town Center) were prepared in the year 2000, much has changed in the Town Center and the world of retail in the past two decades and it is probably time to revisit the Town Center and have a conversation about ways to enhance the vibrancy and vitality of Newington Town Center as the primary community focal point and support uses and development which help achieve this goal.



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

A charrette process results in community-driven support for development which is considered appropriate for the location. Key elements include:

- Visual preference survey
- Area walking tour for shared observations
- Participatory design exercises
- Facilitated discussions
- Developed graphics to illustrate consensus

Community Driven Participatory Process



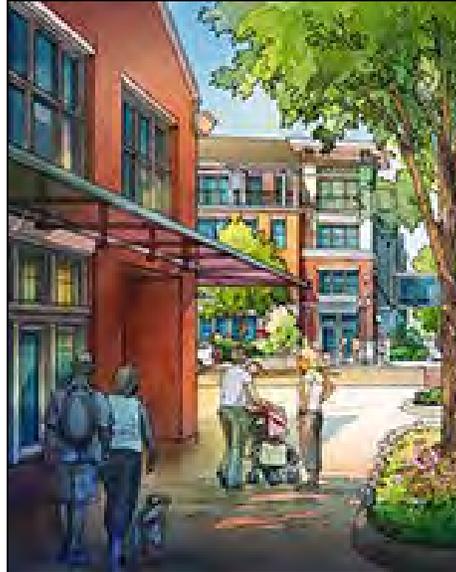
Tactile Modelling



Example Of A Conceptual Plan



Example Of A Conceptual Rendering



Charrette

A charrette (sometimes called a design charrette) is an intense period of collaborative design and/or planning activity in which a group of designers explore possible:

- solutions to a design problem, and/or
- visions for a specific area.

The general idea of a charrette is to create an innovative atmosphere in which a diverse group of stakeholders can collaborate to "generate visions for the future". Charrettes can also serve as a way of quickly generating design solutions while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of people.

While the structure of a charrette varies, charrettes often take place in multiple sessions which allow for:

- a larger group to break into smaller groups,
- design sketches to be prepared to reflect expressed concepts.

Eventually, the work products of multiple groups or multiple sessions are brought back to a larger to attain consensus or for further dialogue.

Importance of Mixed Use

There is an important distinction between:

- Mixed-use areas,
- Mixed-use buildings, and
- Mixed-use sites.

Mixed Use Areas

It is important that Newington Town Center be a mixed-use area so that it is active and vibrant at all hours of the day and a variety of meaningful destinations are *in close proximity* (walking distance) to each other.

More and more people want to live in mixed-use areas and take advantage of convenient shopping, dining, entertainment options as well as social and recreational opportunities.

Newington will seek to maintain the mixed-use nature of the Town Center and enhance and diversify it by strengthening the streetscape and by incorporating housing in new development and redevelopment.

Mixed Use Area / Streetscape



Uniform Use Area / Streetscape



Mixed Use Area / Streetscape



Uniform Use Area / Streetscape



Importance of Mixed Use (cont.)

Mixed Use Building

It is also important that Newington Town Center have mixed-use ***buildings*** so that there are multi-story buildings (with active streetscape uses at street level and residential and other uses above) which “frame” the street. Mixed use buildings make the greatest contribution to establishing and maintaining a mixed-use area.

Newington will seek to encourage or require the establishment of mixed-use buildings in the Town Center and discourage or prohibit the establishment of one-story / single-use buildings which do not contribute to the overall vision for Newington Town Center.

Mixed Use Buildings



Mixed Use Buildings



Mixed Use Sites

Mixed use sites do not typically make the same contribution to the vibrancy and streetscape of an area and should be avoided in Newington Town Center.

Newington will seek to discourage or prohibit the establishment of mixed-use sites which do not contribute to the overall vision for Newington Town Center.

Mixed Use Site



Mixed Use Site



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Active Street Uses

Features which contribute to an active and pedestrian-friendly streetscape include:

- shops,
- restaurants,
- outdoor dining,
- other uses that generate significant pedestrian traffic.

An active and pedestrian-friendly streetscape can also result from:

- public parks,
- benches, fountains, and other street furniture, and
- large display windows which attract passerby interest.

Passive Street Uses

Features which do not contribute to an active and pedestrian-friendly streetscape include:

- blank walls,
- driveways,
- parking lots,
- vacant lots,
- abandoned buildings, and
- offices (or banks) with little apparent activity.

In addition to the charrette process, the Zoning Regulations which guide activities in the Business-Town Center district should consider modifying the regulations to:

- Allow restaurants by Site Plan approval (rather than Special Permit) to help attract more restaurants.
- Allowing outdoor dining by approval of a Site Plan modification rather than requiring a Special Permit.
- Consider requiring a Special Permit for a “passive use” identified below which is located at street level (since such uses can significantly deter pedestrian activity).
- Allowing apartment uses in a business building by Site Plan approval (rather than Special Permit).

	Site Plan	Special Permit
ACTIVE STREET-LEVEL USES (Retail Trade / Services)		
Retail stores, personal service shops or stores.	■	
Bakeries.	■	
Theaters, recreation and entertainment	■	
Restaurants (excluding drive-in or curb service)	■	■
Temporary / seasonal outdoor dining	■	■
Health clubs and dance studios.		■
PASSIVE STREET-LEVEL USES (Offices / Banks)		
Business or professional offices.	■	■
Banks.	■	■
Corporate headquarters, research / development.	■	■
RESIDENTIAL USES		
Multi-Family Residential (17.4 units/acre)		■
Residential Buildings for the Elderly (60 units/acre)		■
Apartments in Business Buildings	■	■
SUPPORT USES		
Parking Lots	■	
Parking Garage		■
OTHER USES		
Clubs or fraternal organizations.	■	■
Food preparation, caterers	■	■
Funeral parlors or mortuaries.		■
Printers, dry cleaners, and the like.		■
Fueling station located within a shopping center		■

Allow these 2 uses by Site Plan (rather than Special Permit)

Require a Special Permit for these 3 uses (rather than Site Plan)

Allow this use by Site Plan (rather than Special Permit)

Require a Special Permit for these 2 uses (rather than Site Plan)

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

To encourage additional development in the future, the TPZ should consider reducing the parking standards in the Town Center area. Studies have found that mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly areas may only need a parking ratio of about 3.0 spaces per 1,000 SF of floor area since people park once and then visit multiple locations. The Zoning Regulations currently require parking as high as 6.0 spaces per 1,000 SF of floor area parking ratio but allow a request for a reduction to 3.5 to 4.0 spaces per 1000 SF for adhering to required design standards. Rather than make this a discretionary request that the TPZ could deny (which can deter property owners and developers due to the uncertainty), this could be made a blanket standard for everyone in the Business - Town Center district where they are within a certain distance of Constitution Square (the Town parking lot). The TPZ could retain the provision in the Regulations (Section 3.12.A.5.B) which allows a total exemption from parking standards in certain situations.

In addition, the TPZ should consider whether there are ways to provide stronger incentives for the dedication of land for municipal parking (see Section 3.12.3) – in addition to exempting buildings from parking requirements when land is dedicated to public parking, communities such as West Harford and Darien and have then gone ahead and reconfigured the parking area to provide more spaces and better circulation).

The TPZ should continue to maintain the Town Center Village Overlay District (Section 3.12A) which provides for design review of new uses to ensure that new development and/or redevelopment enhances the character, landscape and architectural quality of Newington Town Center. However, the TPZ may want to revisit the language in Section 3.12.A.2 which appears to require Commission approval of a change of use in an existing building (even if no new exterior construction) is proposed.

In addition, the TPZ should continue to maintain the provisions which allow some flexibility in area and/or dimensional standards for good design and consistency with adjacent buildings:

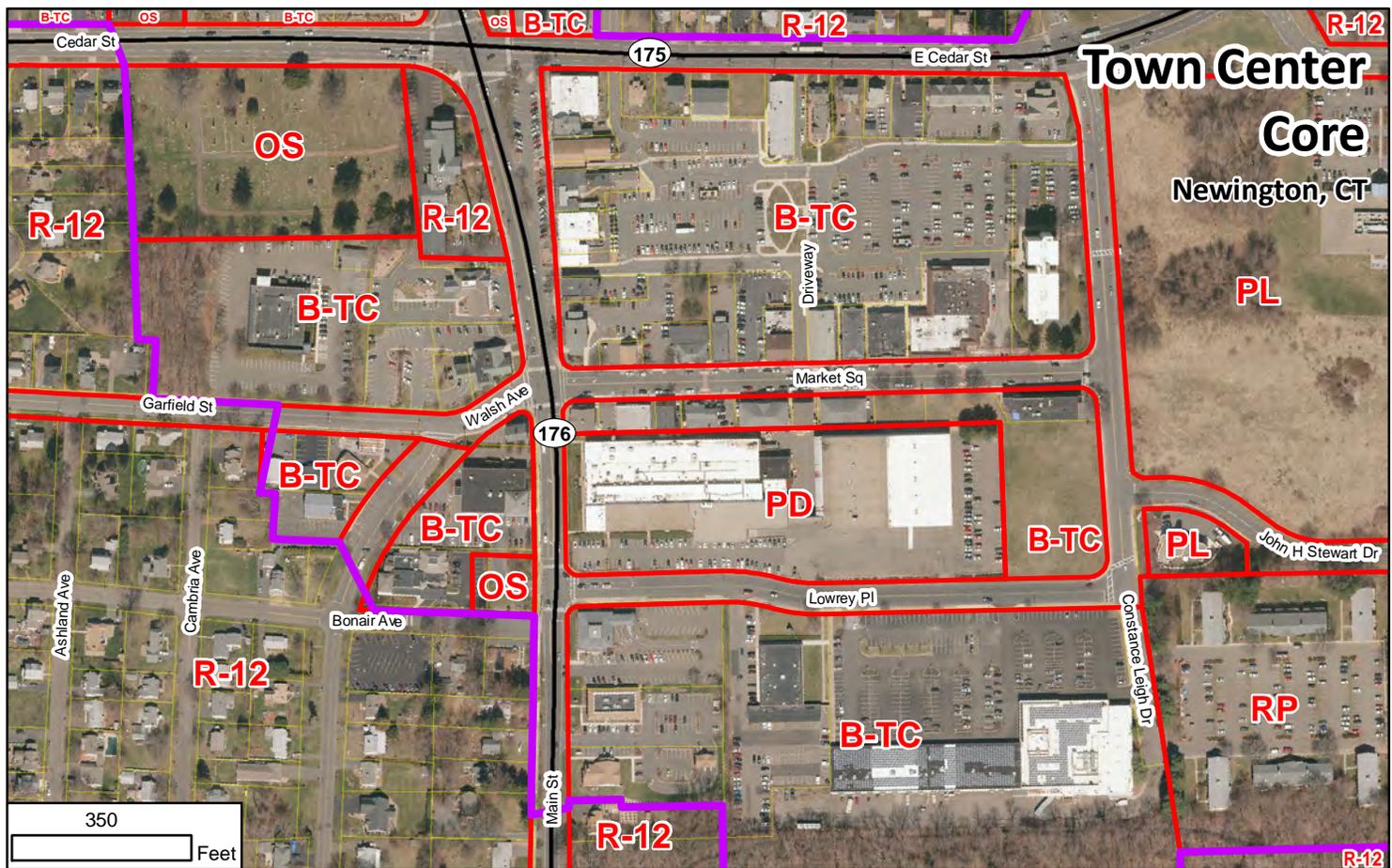
- Yard setback requirements,
- Frontage requirements,
- Lot area requirements, and
- Use of on-street parking.

Newington Town Center

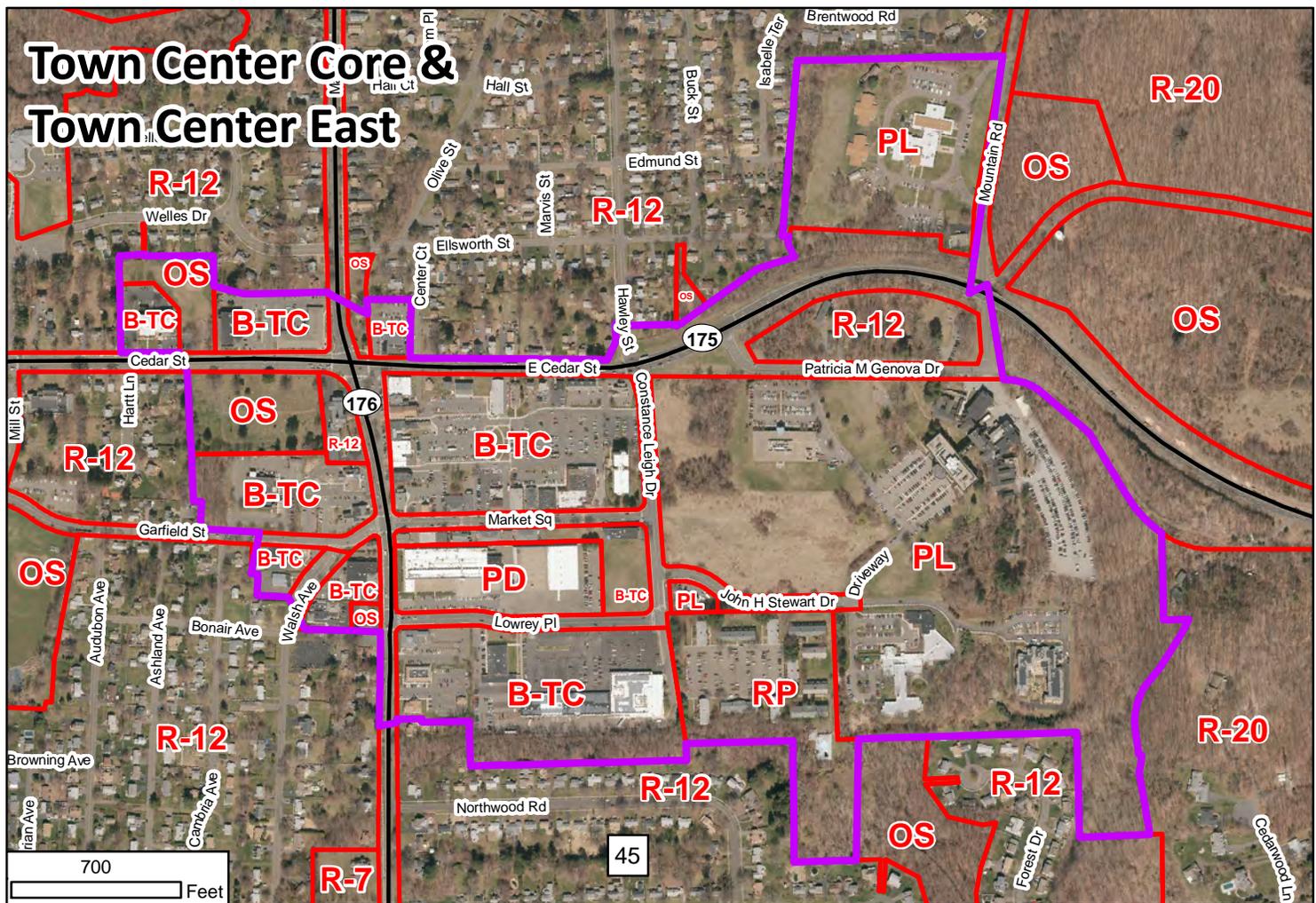


GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Encourage appropriate development and redevelopment of Newington Town Center which enhances a pedestrian-friendly streetscape.
2. Invest in “place-making” since doing so creates economic value for all property owners (more visitation, longer stays, higher sales, higher rents, and higher sale prices) and for the community as a whole.
3. Encourage growth and retention of a diversity of businesses in Newington Town Center to continue to attract residents, shoppers, and visitors.
4. Reinforce Newington Town Center as a great place for residents, visitors, and business investment and a place that fosters a strong sense of community.
5. Promote Newington Town Center as a place that accommodates shopping, dining, leisure, work, housing and governmental services, in an architecturally, economically and socially diverse and pedestrian-friendly environment.
6. Maintain and improve the character of Newington Town Center and its pedestrian-friendly nature, historic elements and diverse range of architectural styles.
7. Seek to ensure that Newington Town Center is well-maintained, comfortable, and safe for people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds at all times of the day.
8. Maintain the attractive look and feel of Newington Town Center and its relationship with surrounding neighborhoods.
9. Maintain and enhance transitional "buffer" areas and seek to ensure appropriate scale, height and setback to adjacent residential areas.
10. Manage traffic and parking to reduce impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods and enhance safety, mobility and convenience for businesses, residents and visitors.
11. Seek to implement improvements within Newington Town Center and surrounding neighborhoods to enhance pedestrianism, handicapped accessibility, bicycle access, transit use, and other forms of mobility (including “Complete Streets”).



Town Center
 Zone Boundary
 Parcel Boundary



Newington Town Center Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Seek to enhance the vibrancy and vitality of Newington Town Center as the primary community focal point and support uses and development which help achieve this goal.	EDC TPZ
2. Establish and maintain regulations which will support a vibrant mixture of business, civic and residential uses in Newington Town Center and a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly area with an active streetscape.	TPZ EDC
3. Continue to ensure that new development and redevelopment enhances the character, landscape and architectural quality of Newington Town Center (and maintains or re-uses existing facades and/or materials, where feasible).	TPZ
4. Continue to ensure that streetscape improvements (sidewalks, lighting, trees, curbing, signage etc.) are of the highest quality and consistent in design theme (see the Main Street streetscape).	TPZ Town
5. Continue to seek grants and other funding to extend and enhance streetscape improvements along Main Street, Market Square, Lowrey Place, Constance Leigh Drive, Cedar street, East Cedar Street, Garfield Street, and into Constitution Square (parking lot).	EDC Town
6. Seek ways to expand and improve the public parking area including additional private property donations for public parking.	EDC Town
7. Continue to support and facilitate Newington Town Center as a location for community events and public gatherings.	EDC Town
8. Continue to ensure that building height and land uses at the perimeter of Newington Town Center are sensitive to adjacent residential areas.	TPZ

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Consider undertaking a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for Newington Town Center to establish an overall vision, suggest possible regulation changes, and to set the stage for complementary development.	TPZ EDC
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Evaluate Town Center parking requirements and permit lower parking ratios if the land uses comply with design guidelines, joint use and time-of-day shared parking.	TPZ EDC
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Utilize the strategic framework of the National Main Street Program in collaboration with businesses and property owners as Newington Town Center continues to evolve.	EDC TC

OPPORTUNITY AREAS / SITES

Promote appropriate reuse and redevelopment at opportunity sites.



In most parts of Newington, the current zoning is appropriate for the locational attributes of the area and the land uses in those areas benefit from a stable land use approach in the future.

On the other hand, there are some areas of Newington where the locational attributes may have changed in a material way and this presents a situation where the community can investigate and discuss possible land use options for the future in order to:

- Build on strengths,
- Overcome weaknesses,
- Seize opportunities, and
- Address constraints.

The overall goals are to:

- Maximize possibilities at “opportunity sites” to accomplish the overall goals of the POCD.
- Promote appropriate conservation and development that retains Newington’s small-town character with emphasis on the reuse and redevelopment of existing sites.

Some “opportunity areas” and recommended approaches are discussed on the following pages. The map on page 53 shows the location of “opportunity” areas (generally larger multi-owner locations). Some additional “opportunity sites” shown on the map on page 53 and the map legend suggests some future use possibilities for these sites.

Opportunity Area A – Newington Town Center

The Newington Town Center discussion is contained in Chapter 7 (pages 37-46).

A related discussion regarding “Town Center East” (the area between Newington Town Center and Cedar Mountain) is discussed on page 52.

Mixed Use

See pages 40-41 (Chapter 7 - Newington Town Center) for a discussion of:

- Mixed-use areas,
- Mixed-use buildings, and
- Mixed-use sites.

Uniqueness

It is important to note that each opportunity area/site is unique and that strategies and/or regulations proposed for one area may not be appropriate for another area.

Opportunity Area B – Future Train Station

A significant opportunity which has arisen in Newington since the POCD adopted in 2010 is the possibility for a train station to be developed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) on Cedar Street over the next few years. This station, once constructed, has the potential to be a transformative event in the history of Newington.

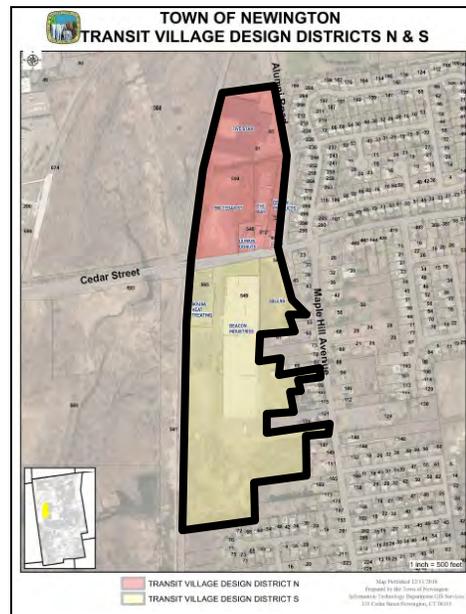
While a train station had been considered a possibility for Newington Junction, the Cedar Street location was identified as a preferred alternative by DOT. The DOT challenged the Town to implement a regulation for land near where the rail line crosses Cedar Street that would have the potential for stimulating development appropriate to its proximity to a train station. The Town of Newington responded by:

- having a “Transit Village Design District” (TVDD) regulation prepared,
- identifying approximately 64 acres of land where the regulations could be utilized in the future, and
- the Town Plan and Zoning Commission adopting the TVDD regulations in August 2019.

The adoption of the TVDD regulation was the essential first step to DOT continuing their planning for a train station in Newington.

For the zoning regulation to be utilized in the future, several steps must occur:

- the land (which is currently privately owned by multiple parties) must be assembled by a private developer or a development entity for the area north of Cedar Street (20 acres), south of Cedar Street (44 acres). or both,
- the developer must prepare a master plan consistent with the TVDD regulations and get the master plan approved by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission.



Of course, for the development to occur, the train station itself (train platforms, station facility, etc.) must be built by DOT or adequate assurances provided that it will be built.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

The TVDD code is approximately 70 pages in length and contains numerous standards and illustrations about important development considerations:

- Neighborhood types,
- Building form and placement standards,
- Building use standards (mixed use buildings are required), and
- Signage, parking, and other standards.

TVDD Illustrations / Standards

TRANSIT VILLAGE DESIGN DISTRICT CODE
Town of Newington, CT
CHAPTER 4. TABLES

TABLE 2E. THOROUGHFARES – PUBLIC FRONTAGES, SPECIFIC

TABLE 2E. Public Frontages, Specific. This table illustrates public frontages on thoroughfares for the Transit Village Design District. It includes standards for public frontages on thoroughfares within the TVDD area. Specific standards for public frontages on thoroughfares are listed in Table 2E and Table 2F.

Public Frontage Type	MX1	MX2	MX3	MX4	MX5
1. Assembly: The space between buildings that is used for public events, performances, or other activities.					
2. Deck: The space between buildings that is used for outdoor seating, dining, or other activities.					
3. Plaza: The space between buildings that is used for pedestrian circulation, outdoor seating, or other activities.					
4. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
5. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
6. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
7. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
8. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
9. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					
10. Pocket Park: The space between buildings that is used for recreation, seating, or other activities.					

TRANSIT VILLAGE DESIGN DISTRICT CODE
Town of Newington, CT
CHAPTER 4. TABLES

TABLE 2F. CIVIC SPACE STANDARDS

TABLE 2F. Civic Space. This table illustrates the general character of public open space appropriate for each MX Zone and some basic standards. Greens, Squares, Plazas and Playgrounds may include water features.

- a. **Green:** An open space, available for unstructured recreation. A green may be created by landscaping rather than building footprints. The landscape shall consist of lawn and trees, naturally occurring, and may include water features. The minimum size shall be 10' wide and the maximum shall be 8' deep.
- b. **Square:** An open space available for unstructured recreation and other purposes. A square is typically defined by building footprints. The landscape shall consist of lawn, trees and trees, naturally occurring, and may include water features. Squares shall be located at the intersection of important thoroughfares. The minimum size shall be 10' wide and the maximum shall be 8' deep.
- c. **Plaza:** An open space available for civic purposes and commercial activities. A Plaza shall be typically defined by building footprints. It shall consist primarily of pavement and may include water features. Trees are required. Plazas shall be located at the intersection of important streets. The minimum size shall be 10' wide and the maximum shall be 8' deep.
- d. **Playground:** An open space designed and equipped for the recreation of children. A playground shall be located and may include an open shelter. Playgrounds shall be equipped with standard safety equipment and may be placed within a block. Playgrounds may be located within parks and greens. There shall be no minimum or maximum size.
- e. **Pocket Park:** A small open space available for socializing, sitting and walking. Pocket parks shall be equipped with benches and plantings, with tables and picnic area options. They may be placed on corners, throughfares or at intervals along with streets, but shall be visible from the thoroughfare. The minimum size shall be 10' wide.
- f. **Big Park:** A formal space for the recreation of dogs, entertainment by humans. A dog park shall be allocated and designed by Special Permit.

However, even with 70 pages of text and illustrations, there is no clear indication of what the transit village could look like, how much development might occur, and how it might integrate into Cedar Street. While some may postulate that this should be proposed by the developer, others feel that the Town should have the ability to be **pro-active** about (rather than reactive to) some of the development possibilities that may occur.

Future Train Station Land Use Strategies

1. Since some time may pass development applications can be made, the Town may wish to take advantage of this opportunity to undertake a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for the TVDD area.
2. The planning process would provide an opportunity to:
 - a. Establish an overall vision,
 - b. Tweak the regulations (if needed), and
 - c. Set the stage for the type of development which best fits Newington and supports the train station.

Context

The Cedar Street Fastrak Station opened in March of 2015 and usage has grown since then. The Cedar Street station is the closest station to the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) campus.

At one time, CCSU had been considering a campus expansion in Newington, south of Cedar Street. The current status of those plans is unclear.

A TOD Overlay District (which allows residential buildings with up to 9.7 units per acre and mixed-use buildings with business uses on the first floor) provides additional development opportunities for the area bounded by:

- Holly Drive/Ella Grasso Boulevard on the north
- Rail line on the east,
- a line parallel to and approximately 2000' south of Cedar Street on the south, and
- CT Route 9 on the west

Uniqueness

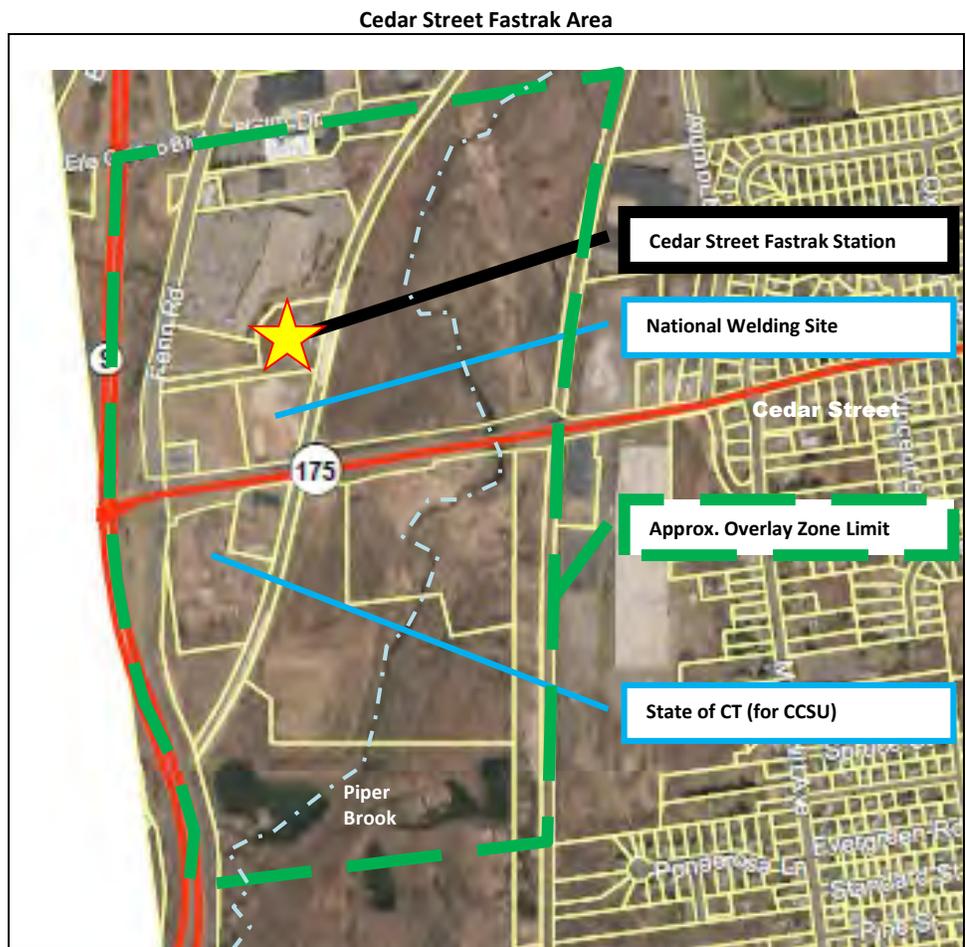
It is important to note that each opportunity area/site is unique and that strategies and/or regulations proposed for one area may not be appropriate for another area.

Opportunity Area C –West Cedar Street

An opportunity area exists in the vicinity of the Cedar Street Fastrak station.

**West Cedar Street
Land Use Strategies**

1. Continue to promote appropriate development of the National Welding Site (now owned by the Town).
2. Continue to work with DOT to address chronic parking shortages at the Cedar Street Fastrak station (either on a short-term or long-term basis).
3. Continue to work with CCSU and others with regard to appropriate future development of the land south of Cedar Street along the Fastrak ROW.
4. Seek to establish a possible greenway trail route along Piper Brook.



Opportunity Area D – Newington Junction

An opportunity area to promote economic growth exists in the vicinity of the Newington Junction Fastrak station due to the availability of the busway.

Newington Junction Land Use Strategies

1. Since the Newington Junction area has three historic districts, residential neighborhoods, and business/industrial uses, the Town might undertake a **community-driven** planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for the Newington Junction area.
2. The planning process would provide an opportunity to:
 - a. Establish an overall vision for a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented area appropriate for Newington Junction along streets near the Fastrak station (and not “leapfrog” into the middle of residential neighborhoods),
 - b. Prepare or tweak regulations (as needed), and
 - c. Set the stage for economic development in this area.
3. Continue to work with DOT to address parking shortages at the Newington Junction Fastrak station (either on a short-term or long-term basis).

Context

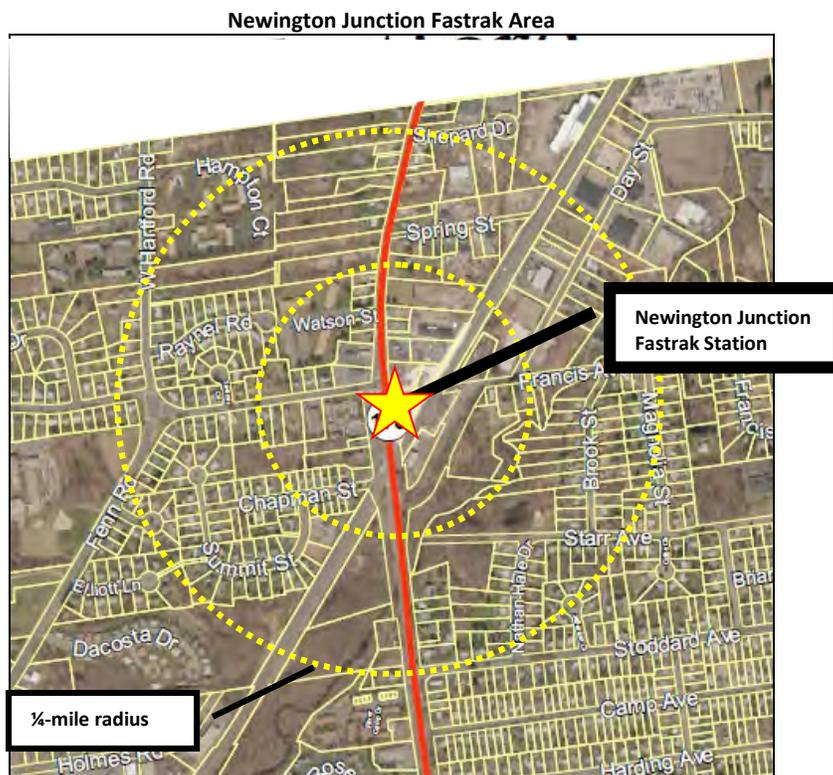
Newington Junction is called that because it sat at the confluence of two separate rail lines and was the location of the Newington train station.

When the Fastrak system was being planned, Newington Junction was studied by CROCOG as a location to promote transit-oriented development (TOD).

However, the study process and recommendations were not strongly supported in Newington at that time and the TPZ adopted a moratorium on multi-family residential development (Section 3.0.1) which expired in 2016.

Uniqueness

It is important to note that each opportunity area/site is unique and that strategies and/or regulations proposed for one area may not be appropriate for another area.



Uniqueness

It is important to note that each opportunity area/site is unique and that strategies and/or regulations proposed for one area may not be appropriate for another area.

Opportunity Area E – Berlin Turnpike

With the changing nature of retail, there may come a time when some properties along the Berlin Turnpike will be ripe for redevelopment due to market considerations.

In the meantime, there are certain uses already located along the Berlin Turnpike (such as transient lodging facilities) which have transitioned into uses which are having a negative impact on adjacent properties and the community.

Newington should prepare for and address these situations to promote appropriate redevelopment of these sites in ways that support the desired overall character and structure of Newington. Whether two separate zoning districts (Berlin Turnpike Business and Planned Development) are needed along the Berlin Turnpike should also be evaluated.

Opportunity Area F – Town Center East

Town Center East
Land Use Strategies

1. Work with Hartford Healthcare and other property owners to undertake a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for the Town Center East area in order to:
 - establish an overall vision which will integrate it into (and help strengthen) the Town Center area while respecting the opportunities and constraints presented by the site and its location,
 - suggest possible regulation changes, and
 - set the stage for complementary development.



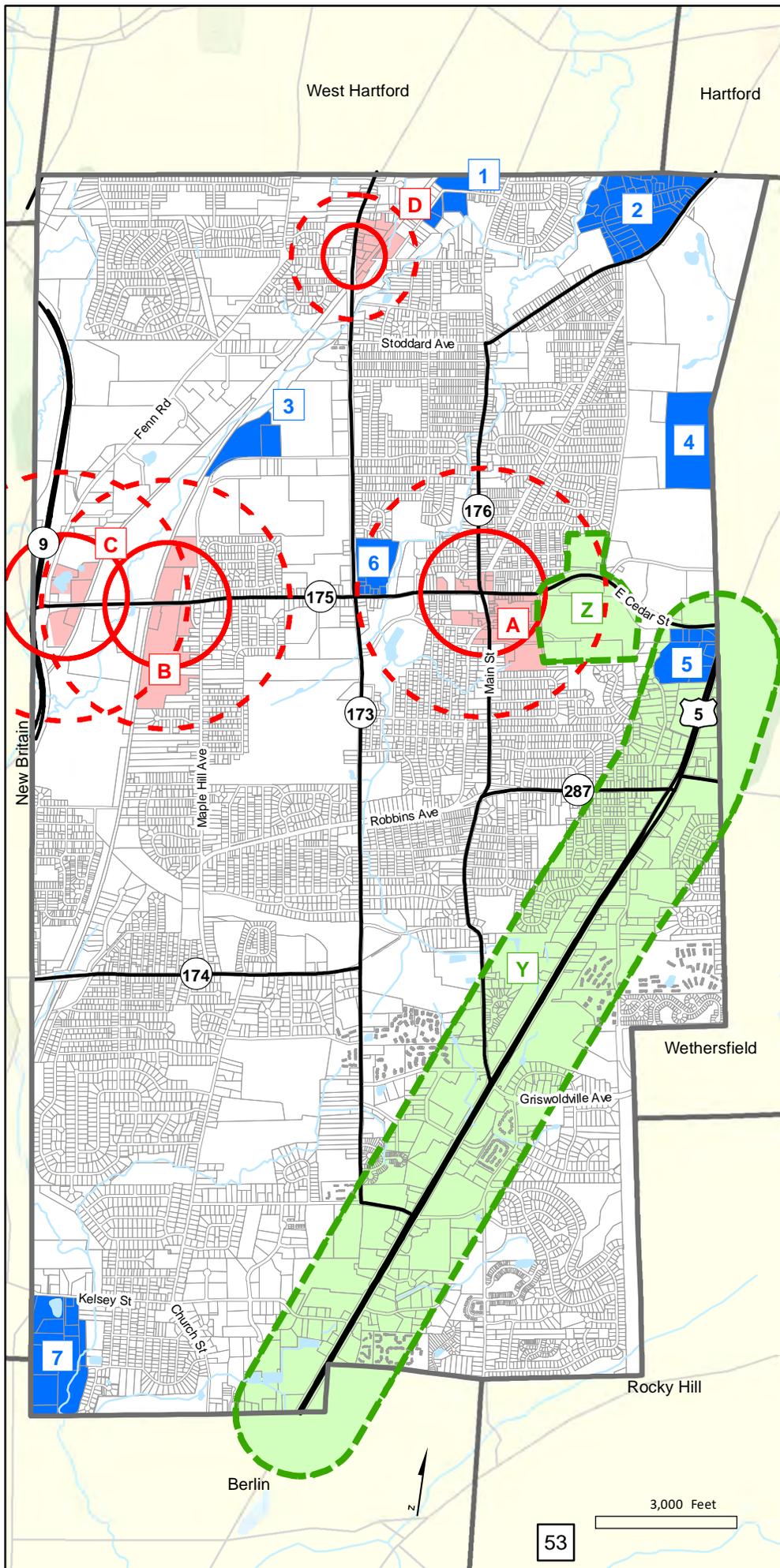
Context

Town Center East is the area between Newington Town Center and Cedar Mountain.

Much of this area was once the campus of Newington Children’s Hospital before it was relocated to Hartford in the 1990s and became the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

Opportunity Sites

Newington, CT



Codes:

- B = Business
- I = Industrial
- M = Mixed Use
- O = Office
- P = Public / Private Institution
- R = Residential
- T = Transitions

Key Opportunity Area

(Generally mixed use, pedestrian-friendly, and transit oriented)

- Core Area / Walk Radius
- Fringe Area / Walk Radius

- A = Town Center (M)
- B = Future Train Station (M)
- C = Cedar Street Fastrak Station (M)
- D = Newington Junction (M)

Special Opportunity Area

- Y = Berlin Turnpike (B/I/O/P)
- Z = Town Center East (B/M/O/P/R)

Opportunity Site

- 1 = Day Street (B/I/M/R)
- 2 = North Mountain Road (I/O)
- 3 = Alumni Road (B/I/O/P)
- 4 = Cedarcrest Hospital (O/P/R)
- 5 = East Cedar Street (B/O/R)
- 6 = Willard Avenue (O/P/R)
- 7 = Kelsey Street (B/O/I)

Opportunity Site Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Maximize possibilities at “opportunity” areas and sites in order to promote appropriate reuse and redevelopment in ways which support the desired overall character and structure of Newington.	EDC TPZ
2. Encourage “transit-oriented” development in areas where transit stations have been and/or will be established.	EDC TPZ DOT
3. Promote development of Newington Town Center area. (see Chapter 7, pages 37-46)	EDC TPZ
4. Promote compatible development and redevelopment along the Berlin Turnpike including transient lodging facilities which have transitioned into uses which are having a negative impact on adjacent properties and the community in general.	EDC TPZ
5. Enhance and improve the appearance and quality of development at commercial gateways.	EDC TPZ

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Undertake a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for the future train station area to establish an overall vision, tweak the regulations (if needed), and to set the stage for the type of development which best fits Newington and supports the train station.	TPZ DOT EDC
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Consider establishing an overlay zone (or other approach) which could enable mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented development specific to the unique circumstances of the Newington Junction area.	TPZ EDC
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Work with Hartford Healthcare and other property owners to undertake a community-driven planning process (like a community “charrette” or a carefully constituted steering committee) for the Town Center East area.	TPZ EDC

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Promote appropriate economic development to meet community needs.



For the POCD, economic development is considered to include uses and activities that:

- Provide jobs for residents of Newington and the region,
- Provide goods and services for people and for businesses, and/or
- Provide net tax revenue to support local services.

In recent years, the concept of economic development has grown to include uses other than commercial / industrial which provide one or more of the above attributes (such as assisted living facilities and age-restricted housing which provide more in tax revenue than they require in municipal services).

Newington has attracted significant economic development over the years to the point there is limited undeveloped land area available for future economic development. As a result, the main economic development opportunities in the future are likely to arise from:

- Key “opportunity” areas (as discussed in Chapter 9), and
- Redevelopment of individual sites.

The overall goals are to:

- Support development of a wide range of commercial / industrial uses to maintain a strong tax base without adversely impacting residential areas.
- Ensure that commercial / industrial areas have adequate public utilities and roadway capacity to accommodate future growth.
- Promote reuse and redevelopment of existing properties, where appropriate, to take advantage of good locations and utility services.

Business Development



Industrial Development



Economic Development Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

Fiscal Considerations

As a community which is mostly developed, growing the Grand List may be more of a challenge in Newington compared to years past (and compared to other communities). As a result, it will also be important for Newington to seek ways to:

- Seek efficiencies in the services (and cost of services) provided,
- Live within our means,
- Improve our fiscal picture

Other Considerations

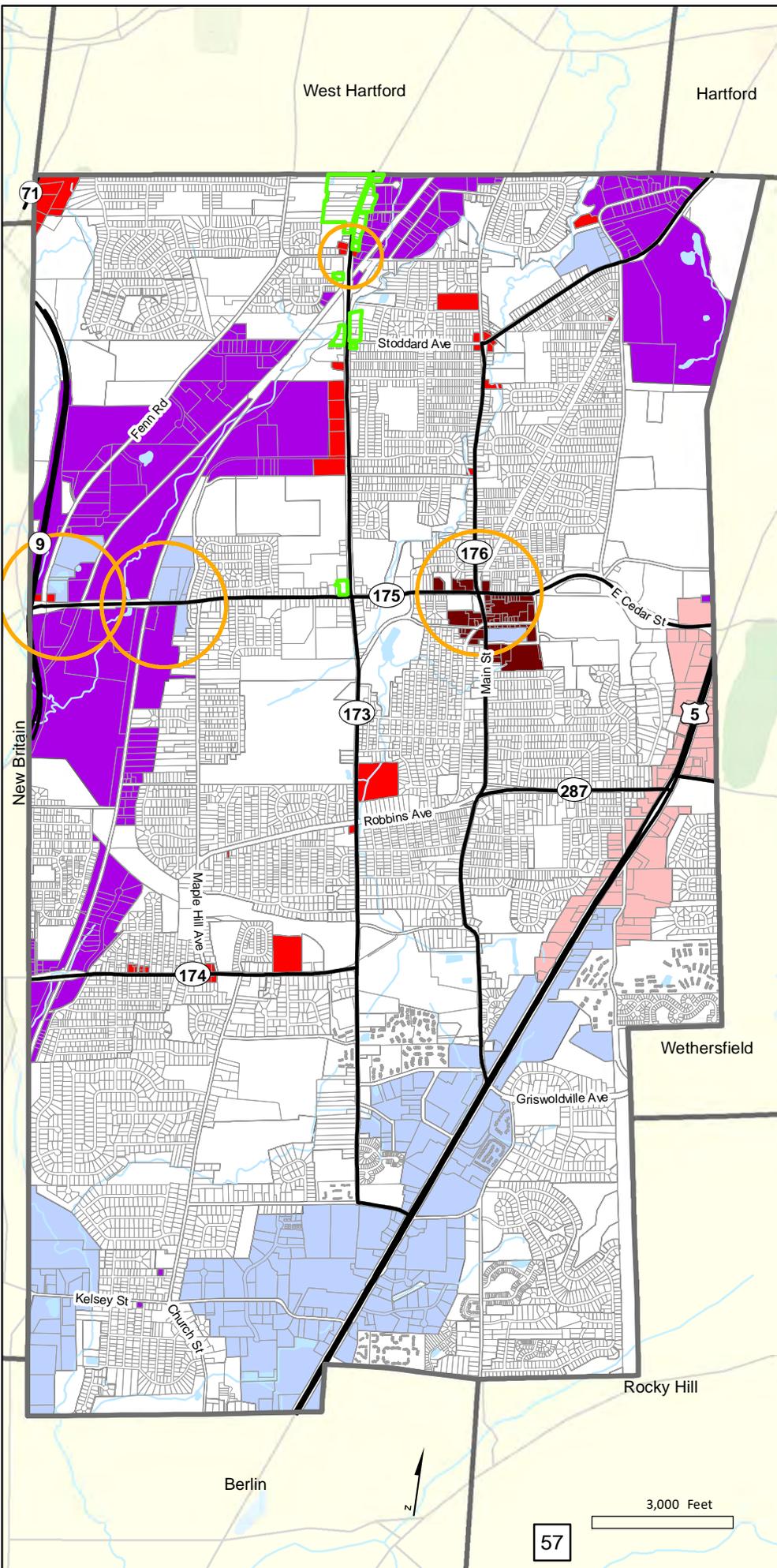
As this POCD was being prepared, a world-wide pandemic disrupted many of the social and economic practices which had become routine for Newington and other communities.

Newington has long been a leader in adapting to new situations and addressing new challenges. While the specific policies and action steps in this POCD may need to be modified, Newington will continue to promote economic development initiatives important to the community.

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to promote appropriate economic development in Newington in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide jobs for residents of Newington and the region, b. Provide goods and services for residents, businesses and visitors, and/or c. Grow the Grand List and provide net tax revenue to support local services. 	EDC Town
2. Continue to support existing businesses and industries and continue efforts to keep them in Newington.	EDC Town
3. Continue efforts to attract new businesses and industries to Newington.	EDC Town
4. Seek to improve the attractiveness of Newington, both economically and physically, in order to attract economic development.	EDC Town
5. Increase the focus on economic opportunity areas.	EDC Town
6. Continue to investigate and use, as appropriate, appropriate tools to promote economic development (such as tax incentives, tax increment financing, and other tools).	EDC Town
7. Where appropriate, reuse and redevelop existing commercial properties to take advantage of good locations and utility services.	EDC Town
8. Continue to protect residential neighborhoods and transitional areas adjacent to commercial properties with effective landscaped buffers and use controls to mitigate potential nuisances.	TPZ
9. Seek to preserve industrially zoned areas and protect them from encroachment by non-industrial uses which reduce the available supply of industrial land and sometimes result in land use conflicts.	TPZ
10. Continue to support the development of land within the Berlin Turnpike corridor for regional retail / service uses consistent with this thoroughfare’s trade location within the Central Connecticut market area while also being ready to support appropriate redevelopment should such situations arise (see page 52).	EDC Town
11. Continue to manage home-based business operations (Section 3.3.3 and Section 3.4.4 of the Zoning Regulations) to ensure they do not cause a nuisance or adversely affect residential neighborhoods.	TPZ TP / ZEO

Business Development

Newington, CT



Key Opportunity

Business Zones

- B-TC Business - Town
- B / CD Business / Comm. Dev.
- B-BT Business - Berlin Turnpike
- PD Planned Development
- Willard Avenue Redevelopment District

Industrial Zones

- I Industrial

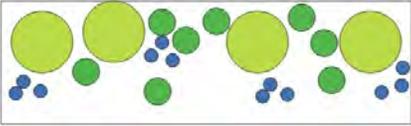
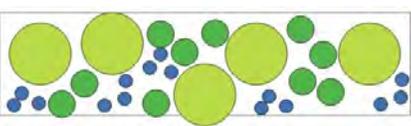
Other Zones

- Land Zoned For Other Than Business Or Industry

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Review the Zoning Map to ensure the location and type of business and industrial zoning districts are appropriate.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Review uses permitted in the various business and industrial zoning districts to ensure they are appropriate and eliminate uses which are not compatible with the nature of each area.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Review dimensional standards in the various business and industrial zoning districts to ensure they are appropriate.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Revisit the landscaping / buffering requirements in the Zoning Regulations to provide “performance –based” buffers that require more planting in narrower buffers and less planting in wider buffers.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Revisit parking requirements for business and industrial uses to ensure that a use will have enough parking but not unnecessarily limit the ability to develop or expand buildings.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Analyze existing neighborhood business districts to improve their appearance, provide safe and convenient customer parking, maintain appropriate boundaries, and ensure that adjacent residential properties are not adversely impacted	TPZ TP

Performance-Based Buffer Concept

	Overhead (Plan) View	Cross-Section View
<p>In most circumstances, a 25’ wide landscaped area would provide the desired buffer between a business/industrial use and a residential area.</p>		
<p>Where more separation distance can be provided (i.e., more than 25’), fewer trees might be needed to provide the desired buffer.</p>		
<p>On the other hand, a tighter site (where a 25’ wide area cannot be provided) might be able to provide an adequate buffer by providing more planting, a berm, and/or a fence.</p>		

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Promote a variety of housing types to meet changing needs while retaining Newington’s character.



Newington is primarily a residential community since most of the land is zoned and used for residential development. While most residential areas are primarily single-family homes, about one-third of the housing units in Newington are multi-family developments (apartments or condominiums).

The overall goals are to:

- Provide housing options for a variety of household types, sizes, ages, tenures, and income groups within safe and stable neighborhoods.
- Protect and conserve the quality of existing housing stock from neglect, incompatible neighboring uses, and disinvestment.
- Maintain quality residential neighborhoods by avoiding the intrusion of non-compatible uses and/or non-residential traffic.

The diversity of Newington’s housing stock including multi-family housing types) is a significant asset, since it increases the opportunity that people of all ages, means, and interests will be able to find housing in the community that meets their needs.

Future housing issues in Newington are likely to include:

- Continuing to diversify the housing portfolio (including upscale housing),
- Providing for housing that is more affordable for younger and older age groups, and
- Meeting the housing needs of an aging population.

Single Family Home



Multi-Family Development



NOAH Estimates

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) calculated the 2019 income for a four-person household in the Hartford region earning 80% of the area median income was \$78,320.

At the 30% threshold, a household earning that income could afford a housing payment of almost \$1,960 per month.

The American Community Survey (ACS) data for Newington reports that there were at least 2,100 apartments or homes in Newington where the gross rent was less than that.

In terms of buying a residence, a payment of \$1,960 per month for a mortgage, taxes, and utilities at prevailing terms in 2019 (4.0%, 30 years) would support a home sale price of more than \$200,000 if no down payment was made. ACS data indicate that about 3,400 housing units in Newington were valued at affordable levels (i.e. - less than \$200,000). With a down payment, even more housing units would be available.

Housing That Is More Affordable

Housing is considered affordable if a person or family spends less than 30 percent of their income on a mortgage or rent and related costs (taxes, utilities, etc.). For persons or families who earn 80 percent of area median income or below, it can be difficult to find adequate housing they can afford.

There are two types of housing that can meet this need:

- naturally occurring affordable housing units (NOAH) that sell or rent at affordable prices, and
- housing that is subsidized or deed-restricted to affordable prices.

Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing - As can be seen from the sidebar, there are about 5,500 housing units in Newington (over 40 percent of the housing stock) that are valued at affordable prices. Newington has a diverse housing stock and there is plenty of housing at different price levels to meet diverse housing needs. This is a strength of the community.

Subsidized / Deed-Restricted Affordable Housing - In Connecticut, the term “affordable housing” is used to refer to housing that is specifically dedicated or reserved in some way for households earning 80 percent or less of the area median income. Newington has over 1,100 housing units that meet these criteria and this totals about 8.6 percent of the housing stock in the community:

For Low / Moderate Income Households	
Governmentally Assisted Units	530
Tenant Rental Assistance	115
Single-Family CHFA/USDA Mortgages	435
Deed Restricted Units	36
Total Assisted Units	1,116
As Percent of 2010 Housing Units (13,011 units)	8.58%

In Connecticut, municipalities with *less than ten percent* of their housing stock meeting the above criteria are subject to the “Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure” (CGS Section 8-30g). This is an important consideration since, if a developer proposes a housing development containing affordable housing meeting certain criteria specified in the statute, such development may not have to comply with local land use regulations.

While the creation of affordable housing units can provide many benefits, communities often prefer that such units be created in locations and ways that fit with the character of the community.

Possible Strategies to Create Affordable Housing

ZONING APPROACHES

1. Adopt an inclusionary zoning requirement requiring that ***any housing development:***
 - create affordable units within that development or elsewhere in the community where such location is found acceptable by the Commission, and/or
 - pay a fee into a municipal Housing Trust Fund.
2. Provide for accessory apartments and other accessory dwelling units (see CGS Section 8-30g for how such units can be counted as affordable units).
3. Allow dimensional flexibility (such as building height or a density bonus) in appropriate areas when it will result in affordable housing units.

PARTNERSHIPS / FUNDING

4. Establish, maintain, and fund a local Housing Trust Fund.
5. Pursue grants for the construction and maintenance of affordable housing.
6. Work with local non-profit organizations to create affordable housing units.
7. Seek private donations of property for development of affordable and/or mixed-income housing.

OTHER APPROACHES

8. Research the potential for placing of deed-restrictions on “naturally-occurring affordable housing” so that Newington will get credit for such housing.
9. Seek ways to extend deed restrictions for a longer period.
10. Seek ways to convert existing housing units to deed-restricted affordable units through down payment assistance for new buyers, tax reduction for existing single-family and multi-family uses and purchase / restriction.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

If Newington wishes to gain more control over the development of CGS 8-30g affordable housing in the community, there are two ways to become exempt:

- Find ways to create enough affordable housing units to meet the 10 percent threshold, or
- Find ways to create enough affordable housing units to get a series of four-year moratoria.

To meet the threshold -- 10 percent of the units in the last Census, Newington would need to have 1,301 affordable housing units. With 1,116 units today, reaching this threshold would require the creation of 185 affordable units. Note, however, that this threshold will change once the 2020 Census is released.

The other way to get a moratorium is to accumulate enough “housing unit equivalent points” to meet State-defined thresholds. Points can be obtained as follows:

	Ownership Unit	Rental Unit
Family units at 40% of area median income	2.0	2.5
Family units at 60% of area median income	1.5	2.0
Family units at 80% of area median income	1.0	1.5
Elderly units at 80% of area median income	0.5	0.5
Unrestricted units in a “set-aside” development	0.25	0.25
Bonuses for 3+ bedrooms, elderly units mixed with family units, approved incentive housing development, resident-owned mobile manufactured home park	varies	varies

Newington is in the process of applying to the Connecticut Department of Housing for a four-year moratorium based on “housing unit equivalent points” obtained since 1990.

Until that application is approved and the moratorium is granted, Newington is still subject to CGS 8-30g.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Housing For An Aging Population

Housing for an aging population is an important consideration for most communities and Newington is no exception.

For people with adequate incomes, Newington has a diverse array of housing choices for people to find a housing choice which meets their needs. In addition to independent living, Newington has several facilities which offer assisted living and other types of assistance / care.

For people who would prefer to remain in their own homes, Newington has a variety of services which can help people “age-in-place”. The demand for these services can be expected to increase significantly in the future.

The challenge can be that, although people’s life expectancies increase, their financial means do not. As a result, an increased need for subsidized housing for elder people can be anticipated in the future. Since there is already a substantial waiting list for housing managed by the Newington Housing Authority, work should begin now on finding ways to address this growing need.

Aging In Place

Newington offers several programs to assist the elderly age in place including:

- Elderly tax relief,
- Meals-on-Wheels,
- Dial-a-Ride, and
- Other services.

Multi-Family Housing



Housing Authority Housing



Housing Authority Housing



Assisted Living



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Overall Housing Diversification

In addition to older age groups, there are other groups who may also seek housing options:

- Younger age groups starting to earn their way in the world who do not want to live at home,
- Younger age groups who may still be balancing college debt,
- Older persons who may experience job loss, divorce, or other events and would benefit from having housing options available when they need them,
- People with special needs (such as people who are mobility-impaired and use a walker or wheelchair).

Overall, there are many demographic segments where the current housing mix may not meet their current and future needs. Other communities have come to the realization that they can, and should, diversify their housing portfolio to provide for a variety of housing types.

Since accessory apartments can be an effective tool for addressing housing needs within the existing housing stock, the provisions in the Newington Zoning Regulations should be revisited to ensure they are meeting community needs.

Areas in Newington which may be best located to assimilate housing options within the community may include:

- **Newington Town Center (and nearby areas such as “Town Center East”) which will help support the strengthening of this area,**
- **Areas which are walkable to transit stations including:**
 - **the future train station location on Cedar Street,**
 - **the Cedar Street Fastrak station,**
 - **the Newington Junction Fastrak Station,**
- **Areas which are near existing CT-Transit bus routes.**

Single-Family Residential



Multi-Family Residential



Residential Development

Newington, CT

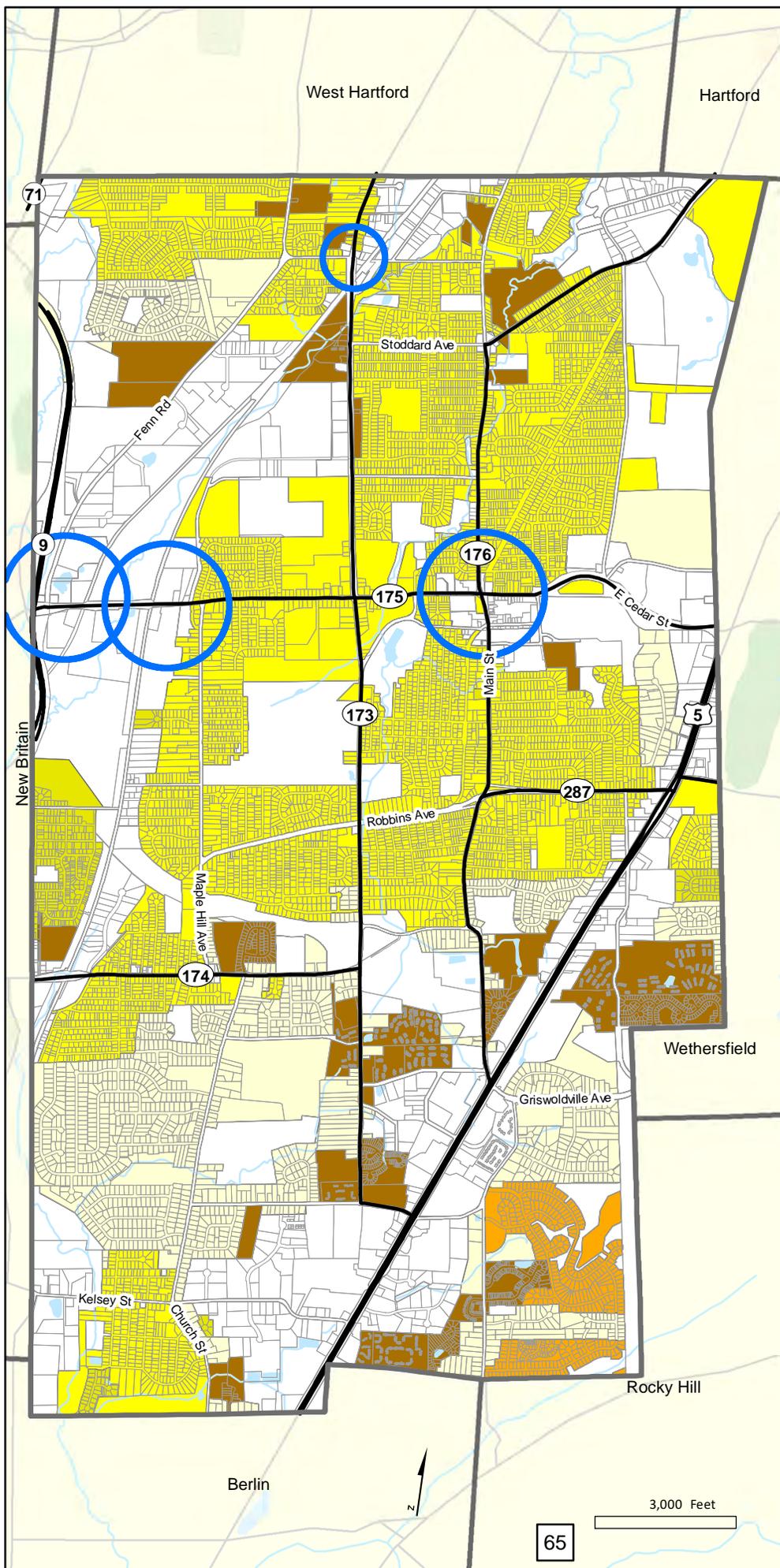
 Key Opportunity Area

Residential Zones

-  R-7 Residential
-  R-12 Residential
-  R-20 Residential
-  RD Residential Designed
-  RP Residential Planned

Other Zones

-  Land Zoned For Other Than Residential



Residential Development Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners on inside back cover

Other Considerations

As this POCD was being prepared, a world-wide pandemic disrupted many of the social and economic practices which had become routine for Newington and other communities.

While the POCD encourages diversifying the housing options within Newington to help meet the changing housing needs of current and future residents and an aging population, it is possible that economic circumstances will change for many people and that the need for housing options will become even more pronounced. It is anticipated that Newington will continue to monitor this evolving situation in order to be able to address community needs.

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to protect and enhance residential neighborhoods by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully managing special permit uses in residential neighborhoods, and Mitigating potential conflicts between residential and other uses (scale, setbacks, buffer areas, design compatibility, etc.). 	TPZ
2. Seek to diversify Newington’s housing portfolio to provide housing options for a variety of household types, sizes, ages, abilities, tenures, and income groups within safe and stable neighborhoods.	HNSC HA
3. Encourage the maintenance and improvement of the existing housing stock and discourage disinvestment or neglect.	Town
4. Continue to offer low interest rehabilitation loans through continued participation in state and/or federal grant programs.	TP
5. Continue to provide support services for the growing number of people who choose to “age in place.”	COAD Town
6. Help the Newington Housing Authority address the growing need for housing for income-limited senior citizens.	Town HA

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Consider adopting an inclusionary zoning requirement (as authorized by CGS 8-2i) to require an affordable housing component of every new housing development, especially in housing opportunity areas identified in the POCD (see Chapter 9).	TPZ HNSC
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Prepare an official Affordable Housing Plan, as required under PA 17-170 (codified as CGS Section 8-30j), with compliance required by July 24, 2022).	TPZ HNSC
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Review the accessory apartments provisions in the Zoning Regulations to see if they can be simplified and help address changing community needs.	TPZ TP

Single-Family Residential



Multi-Family Residential



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Continue to provide and maintain community facilities to meet local needs.



Community services (such as public works, public safety, and education) contribute significantly to Newington’s character and quality of life. For the purposes of the POCD, community facilities are considered to include buildings and other facilities which are used to provide services to residents.

The overall goal is to provide quality community facilities which are well maintained and accessible to all residents.

The POCD does not get involved in the day-to-day operation of local departments but does look at:

- The adequacy of local facilities to meet anticipated community needs during the planning period (to 2030 or so) and beyond, and
- Whether the potential exists to expand such facilities in the future should the need arise.

Town Hall



Public Safety



Education



Recreation



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Demographic Changes

Like many communities, Newington is anticipating an increase in the number of older residents and this will have implications for community facilities.

This can include more demand for services for older residents:

- Senior Center
- Tax relief
- Assistance for those choosing to “age in place”, such as “meals on wheels”
- Emergency medical
- Social services
-

The following table provides a macro-level overview of community facility issues in Newington which will likely require attention over the next 10 to 20 years:

Function	Assessment
Building Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There appears to be deferred maintenance on a number of community facilities and this will eventually result in higher costs than if there was an on-going maintenance/replacement program in place (a capital improvement plan)
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion / renovation is desired to meet community needs
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of investment in facilities (pools, fields, etc.) shows • Park and Recreation Master Plan (2007) needs updating to address current and anticipated future issues
Future Expansion Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider purchasing sites adjacent to existing community facilities if doing so will provide an opportunity to prepare for possible future expansion, if or when needed.

The following table identifies situations which may change over the next 10 to 20 years and should be monitored:

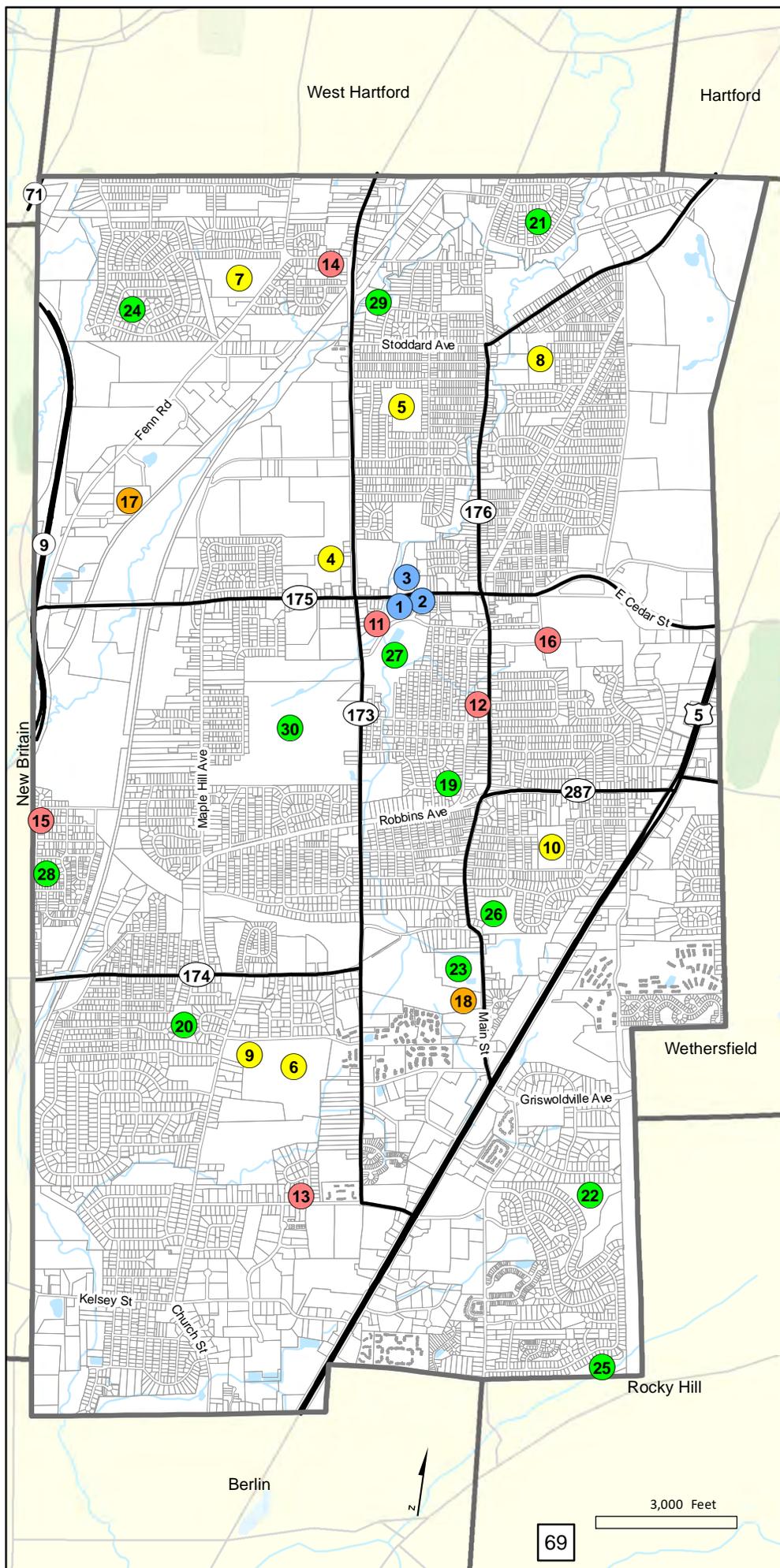
Function	Assessment
Schools / Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While existing buildings are expected to be adequate in size (since enrollment is expected to remain stable), building condition issues and programmatic changes (such as full day pre-school) may require attention • Continue to monitor enrollment changes and project future enrollments
Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor site utilization since the current facility may not be adequate for long-term community needs
Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer fire department continues to work well but many communities are finding this to be more difficult than it has been – a paid department will be much more expensive and may necessitate a reconfiguration of equipment and stations • Some facilities may need upgrades to meet community needs • Facilities study programmed for 2020
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station is cramped for current needs but may get some relief after completion of Town Hall / Community Center project • Situation should be monitored

The following community facilities and services are expected to be adequate for community needs for the next 10 years or so:

- Town Hall / Community Center (once current renovation / expansion project is completed).
- Senior Center / Community Center.
- Solid waste.
- Emergency medical response.

Community Facilities

Newington, CT



General

- 1. Town Hall
- 2. Lucy Robbins Welles Library
- 3. Newington Senior Center

Education

- 4. Newington High School
- 5. Martin Kellog Middle School
- 6. John Wallace Middle School
- 7. Anna Reynolds Elementary School
- 8. Elizabeth Green Elementary School
- 9. John Patterson Elementary School
- 10. Ruth Chaffee Elementary School

Public Safety

- 11. Newington Police Department
- 12. Newington Fire Department Co 1
- 13. Newington Fire Department Co 2
- 14. Newington Fire Department Co 3
- 15. Newington Fire Department Co 4
- 16. Newington Volunteer Ambulance

Public Works

- 17. Newington Highway Garage
- 18. Transfer Station / Former Landfill

Parks and Recreation

- 19. Badger Field
- 20. Beacon Park
- 21. Beachwood Park
- 22. Candlewyck Park
- 23. Churchill Park
- 24. Eagle Lantern Park
- 25. Littlebrook Park
- 26. Mill Brook Park
- 27. Mill Pond Park
- 28. Seymour Park
- 29. Starr Park
- 30. Newington Golf Course

Community Facility Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Maintain and manage community facilities and services in an efficient and cost-effective way to maximize their utility and to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. meet current community needs, and b. anticipate and adapt to future community needs. 	TC BOE CIC
2. Undertake improvements to improve accessibility (mobility, sight, hearing, etc.) to all municipal facilities and services.	TC BOE COAD
3. Whenever sites become available adjacent to existing facilities, consider purchasing those sites if doing so will provide an opportunity to prepare for possible future expansion, if or when needed.	Town TC
4. Monitor school enrollments (and project future enrollments in order to anticipate possible future facility needs (expansion or contraction).	BOE
5. Monitor site utilization at the Public Work facility since the current facility may not be adequate for long-term community needs.	PW Town
6. Continue to support the volunteer fire department.	Town FD
7. Monitor space utilization / needs at the police station.	Town PD
8. Continue to ensure that all signs utilized to identify Town-owned facilities, buildings, public park lands and their respective features shall be uniform in design (Administrative Letter 35 (2004)).	Town

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> 1. Establish an Infrastructure Study Committee to provide (or charge the Capital Improvements Committee with providing) a comprehensive overview of community facility needs and issues (including deferred maintenance) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Library, b. Park and Recreation, c. Fire facilities, and d. Other facilities. 	TC CIC

VEHICULAR TRANSPORTATION

Provide for safe and efficient vehicular transportation to meet community needs.

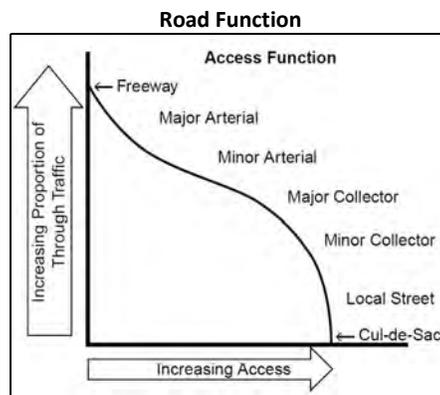


The roadway system in Newington is important in the day-to-day life of the community and the system should be managed and maintained to meet community needs, efficiently and cost effectively. The overall goals are to:

- Provide a transportation network which places priority on safety and adequate levels of service for adjacent land uses.
- Ensure that the Town's road system provides the most balanced circulation network possible recognizing that existing Town and State roads are already well established.

Newington's system of public roads fulfills three basic functions and the map on page 75 shows which roads serve which function:

- Primarily connecting Newington to other areas (arterial roads),
- Conveying traffic from local roads to main roads (collector roads), and
- Primarily accessing individual properties (local roads).



It is somewhat unique that many of Newington's streets provide regional circulation and this causes some burdens on the community in terms of traffic congestion and impacts on adjacent properties.

East Cedar Street



Fenn Road



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Electric Vehicles

A number of people are converting to electric vehicles for environmental, economic, and sustainability reasons. However, the availability of vehicle charging stations can be a challenge.

Newington should seek ways to encourage or require the establishment of vehicle charging stations as part of new developments.

Autonomous Vehicles

This POCD was being prepared during a time when there is discussion regarding the possible roll-out of autonomous vehicles. While the timing of this is unclear, Newington should begin to consider ways to address and/or accommodate such trends as they occur.

Traffic Congestion

Newington experiences significant traffic volumes on major roadways due to its population, employment, retail destinations, major roadways (such as the Berlin Turnpike), and proximity to major population centers. This can result in congestion and delays along major roadways and at key intersections.

Safety and congestion issues on State highways are addressed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation as they are identified and prioritized. Likewise, the Town of Newington is responsible for addressing these issues on local roadways.

In order to maintain roadway capacity and safety, the Town requires submission of an access management plan (Section 5.3.4.6 of the Zoning Regulations) and then uses that information to evaluate opportunities to reduce the number of curb cuts and share driveway access as part of its development review process.

In addition, there are some roadway improvement needs which have been identified and/or programmed:

- Installation of a roundabout at Fenn Road / Ella Grasso Boulevard.
- Intersection improvements on Cedar Street at the location of the proposed train station (which may include reconfiguration of the Alumni Road / Maple Hill Avenue intersection).
- Repair / renovation of bridges.

**Proposed Roundabout
At Fenn Road / Ella Grasso Blvd.
(entrance to Route 9 northbound)**



**Driveway / Intersection
Configuration On Cedar Street
Near Proposed Train Station**



Traffic Calming

As a result, there are situations in Newington where traffic uses local streets to try to avoid congestion. This is unfortunate since it can turn what was intended and built as a local street into the functional equivalent of a collector street (more traffic seeking to travel at higher speeds).

To address this, Newington may wish to consider implementing “traffic calming” measures, *as appropriate*, along certain streets to deter through traffic and manage it more effectively.

Sample Of Possible Traffic Calming Techniques



Awareness - A neighborhood meeting can raise awareness of the issue and involve residents in identifying possible approaches.



Signage – Signage informs motorists of acceptable speeds and/or behavior. Roads can be marked for “no trucks.” Unreasonably low speed limits are not recommended.



Speed Enforcement – Enforcement of speed limits and other traffic laws in neighborhoods can help slow traffic and help police learn when and where to focus their traffic calming efforts.



Narrowing Travel Lanes - Narrowing travel lane width can calm traffic. A constriction (choker, chicane, etc.) can also be effective although it can hamper snowplows and emergency response.



Mini-Roundabouts - A mini-roundabout is a street intersection feature which requires vehicles to slow down and navigate around the island in an intersection and yield to vehicles already in the roundabout.



Speed Bump / Hump – Temporary or permanent raised sections of roadway which can deter speeding and cut-through traffic. However, this can also create issues for snow plowing and emergency response.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

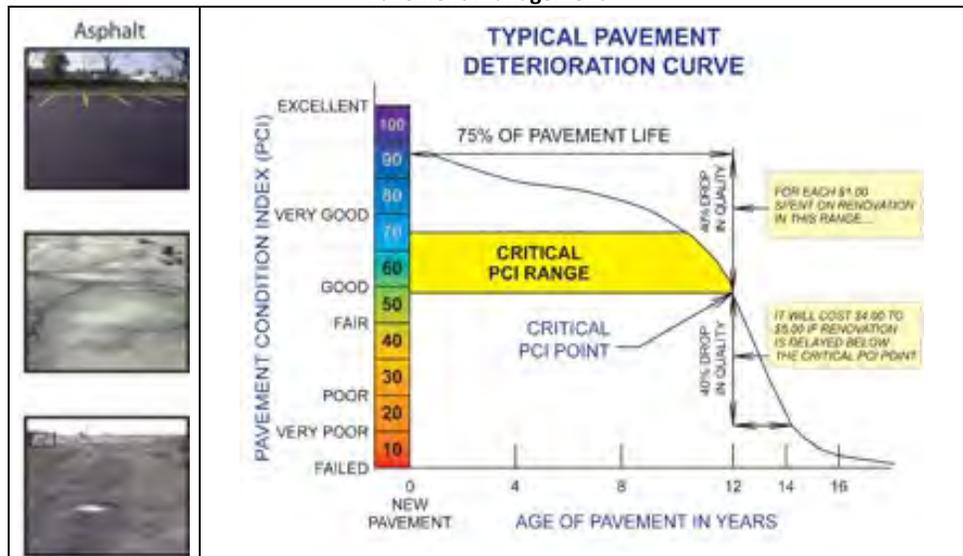
Pavement Management

Pavement maintenance is a continuing concern and funding constraints have resulted in a reactionary (rather than a proactive) approach to road maintenance and repairs in Newington. There are visual indications of pavement degradation.

Over the long term, experience has shown that it is more cost effective to be pro-active about maintaining roads in good condition (crack sealing, etc.) rather than letting roads deteriorate to the point where more expensive approaches (repaving, reconstructing, etc.) are required.



Pavement Management

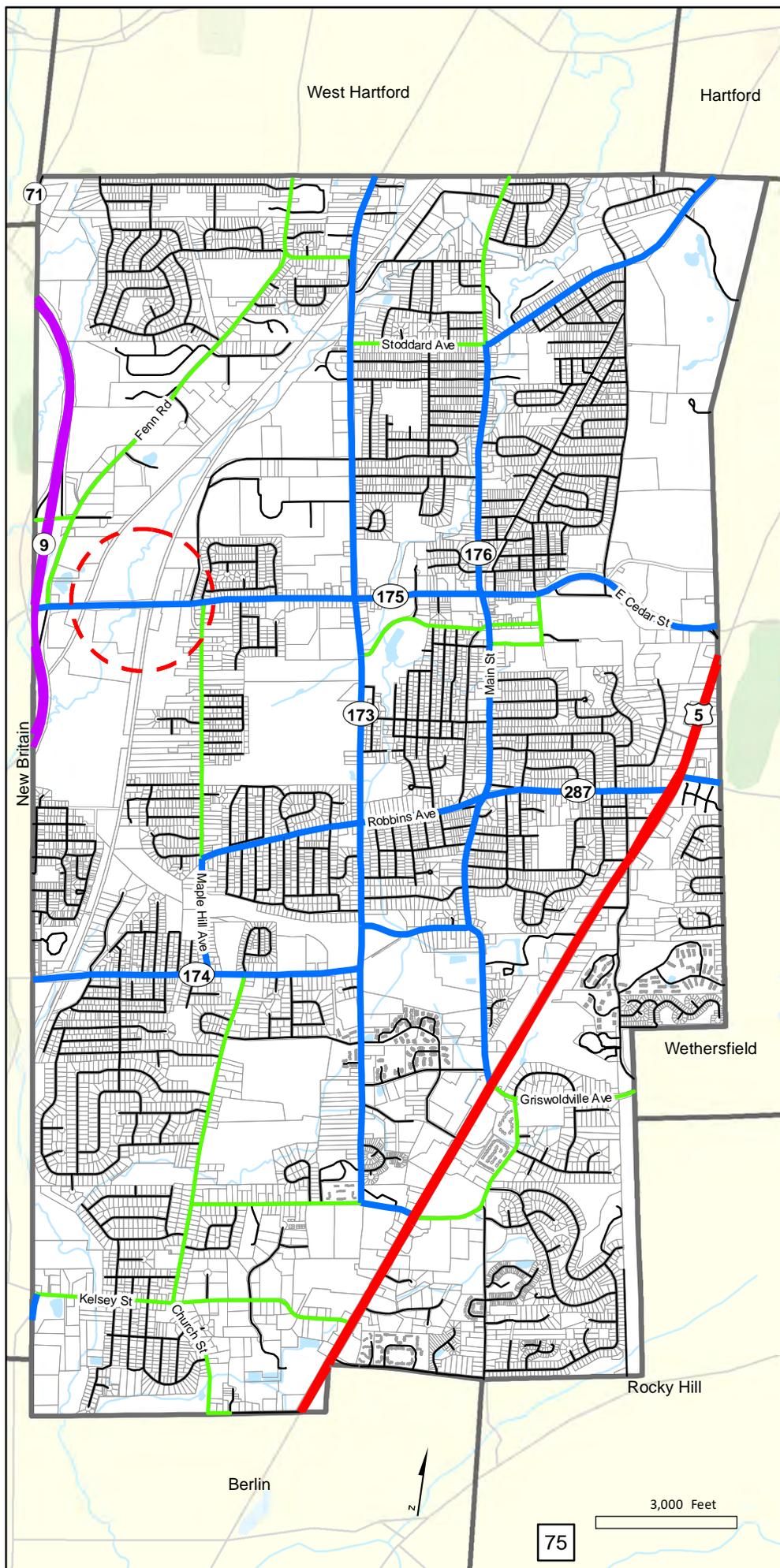


Road Classification

Newington, CT

Regional Classifications (CT DOT)

- Principal Arterial - Other Expressway
- Principal Arterial -
- Minor
- Major/Minor Collector
- Local
- Intersection Improvements Required As Part Of Train Station / Transit Village



Vehicular Transportation Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Continue to address potentially hazardous issues (safety and capacity) on State highways while minimizing possible impact to property outside the road right of way.	DOT PD
2. Continue to address potentially hazardous issues (safety and capacity) on local roadways while minimizing possible impact to property outside the road right of way.	PW PD TE
3. Strive to direct non-residential traffic to the arterial and collector street network and discourage it from using local residential streets (traffic calming).	PD
4. Strive to fund maintenance of local roadways as efficiently and economically as possible.	PW TC
5. Maintain the quality of streets through a comprehensive capital improvement program.	TC Town PW

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Reestablish the pavement management system in order to be able to systematically track pavement condition over time.	PW TE
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Relocate the access management provisions (ZR Section 5.3.4.6) from a site plan submission requirement to a distinct regulation section.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Complete installation of a roundabout at Fenn Road / Ella Grasso Boulevard.	DOT
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Undertake intersection improvements on Cedar Street at the location of the proposed train station (which may include reconfiguration of the Alumni Road / Maple Hill Avenue intersection).	DOT
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Repair / renovate bridges.	PW DOT

PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, AND TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION

Provide for safe and efficient pedestrian, bicycle, and transit systems to meet community needs.



Historically, most transportation planning was devoted to the movement of vehicles on roadways. In recent years, however, there has been growing interest in providing for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit systems to meet community needs.

The overall goal is to promote better integration of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit so they are seen as an overall system (and not as stand-alone issues) which are appropriate and practical for Newington.

Pedestrian Circulation And Mobility / Accessibility

Newington has about 54 miles of sidewalks along Town and State roadways and the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations generally require sidewalk construction as part of new development. The focus moving forward will involve closing the gaps in the sidewalk system and doing more to maintain and enhance overall accessibility in the community for pedestrians:

- Maintain and enhance the sidewalk network in Newington Town Center (including crosswalks).
- Seek ways to extend the sidewalk network from Newington Town Center to the proposed train station on Cedar Street.
- Seek ways to extend the sidewalk network from Newington Town Center to the Fastrak station on Fenn Road as well as north to the Newington Junction Fastrak station.
- Make sidewalk / crosswalk improvements to improve accessibility for mobility-impaired people (and for an aging population in general).

More can also be done to improve accessibility for mobility-impaired people:

- No threshold entries at buildings.
- Sidewalk ramps at crosswalk locations as well as properly timed signals for crossers.
- Ensuring appropriate provision is made for handicapped parking spaces and access from there to buildings and other destinations.

Roadway Lane Widths

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has adopted a policy which provides for establishing lane widths of 11 feet when repaving or restriping roads. This change (from historic lane widths of 12 feet or more) has the potential to make more space available for cyclists and other roadway users.

Newington should actively participate in evaluating opportunities to stripe narrower lanes where appropriate.

“Complete Streets”

Nowadays, attention is turning to “complete streets” where existing road rights-of-way are used to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

A “road safety audit” was conducted for Newington Town Center in 2016 with regard to establishing a complete streets program. Planning is underway for implementing complete street initiatives on Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue. Newington should consider adopting a town-wide complete streets policy in order to promote consideration of transportation options for all users.

Bicycle Usage

A number of the major roads in Newington are not well configured for bicycle riders since they have constricted shoulders, fast moving traffic, and/or heavy traffic. Despite these impediments, the POCD encourages safe, convenient, comfortable, and secure bicycle-riding environments and encourages bicycle where appropriate. In addition, the Town should consider participating in “bike-share” programs being considered in the Hartford region.

Enhancing Transit Services

Commuter Rail - The DOT has been working to improve rail service along the New Haven to Springfield corridor and this rail line goes through Newington. As part of this effort, the DOT is proposing to establish a train station in Newington now that the Town has adopted regulations to support transit-oriented development near the proposed station location (Cedar Street near maple Hill Avenue). Once the train station opens, Newington will have access to 16 round trip train per day.

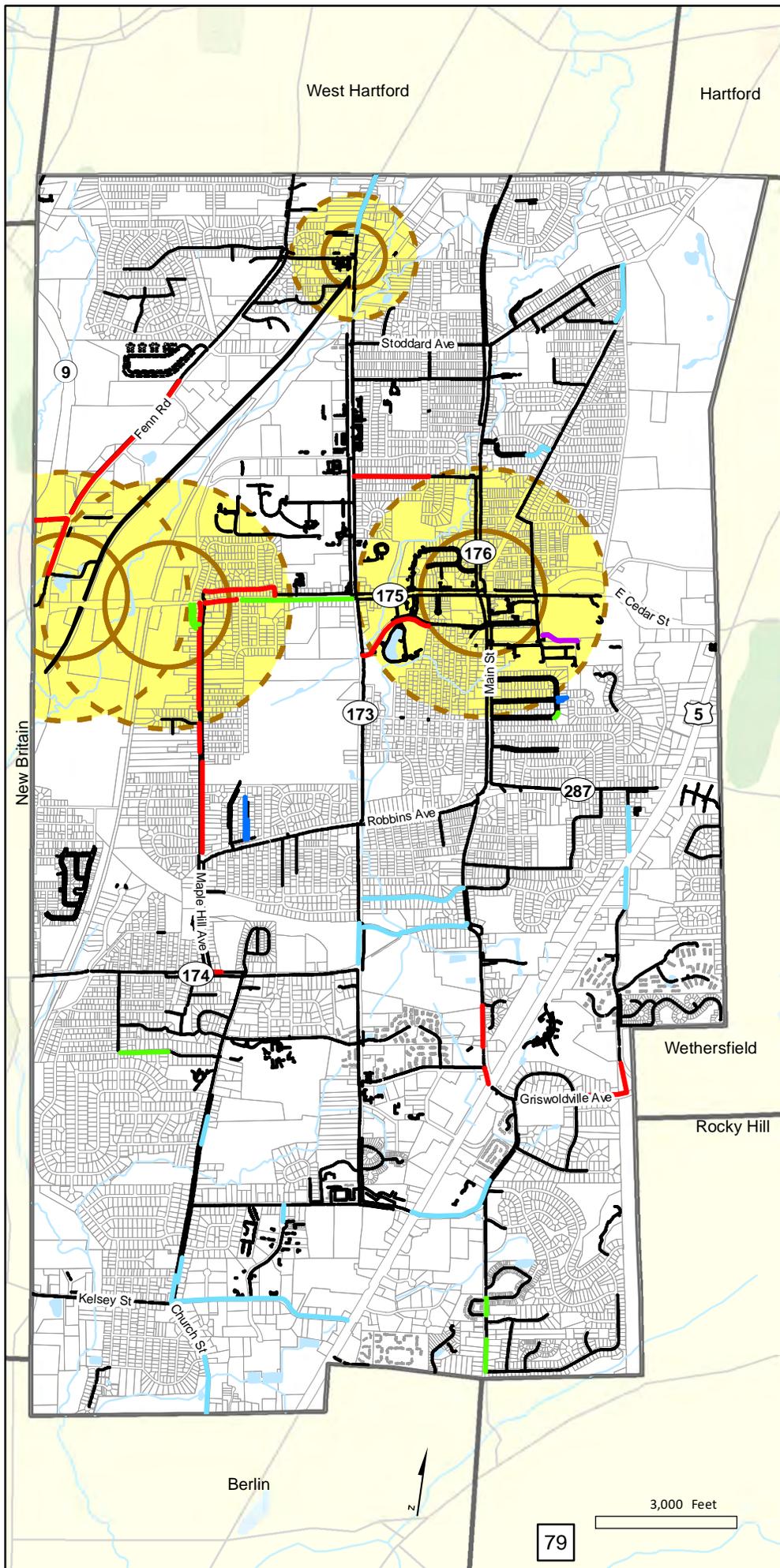
Fastrak Busway – In addition, Newington has two stations (Cedar Street and Newington Junction) along the Fastrak busway which has been established to provide fixed route express service between Hartford and New Britain. The service is gaining ridership although it is ironic that a shortage of parking at the stations in Newington is an impediment to people using Fastrak more.

Bus Routes – Newington is served by seven CT-Transit bus routes (#41, #45, #47, #69, #140, #144, #512) which connect different parts of Newington with Hartford, New Britain, West Hartford, Wethersfield, and Berlin.

Para-Transit – Newington has a weekday dial-a-ride (paratransit) service offering door-to-door service for the elderly and disabled. Usage of these programs should be monitored since there may be a need to provide more vehicles and/or service more needs (residents, workers, commuters, other age groups) as Newington’s population ages.

Pedestrian Plan

Newington, CT



Pedestrian Facilities

Current Sidewalk

Future Sidewalk

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

Sidewalk to be removed

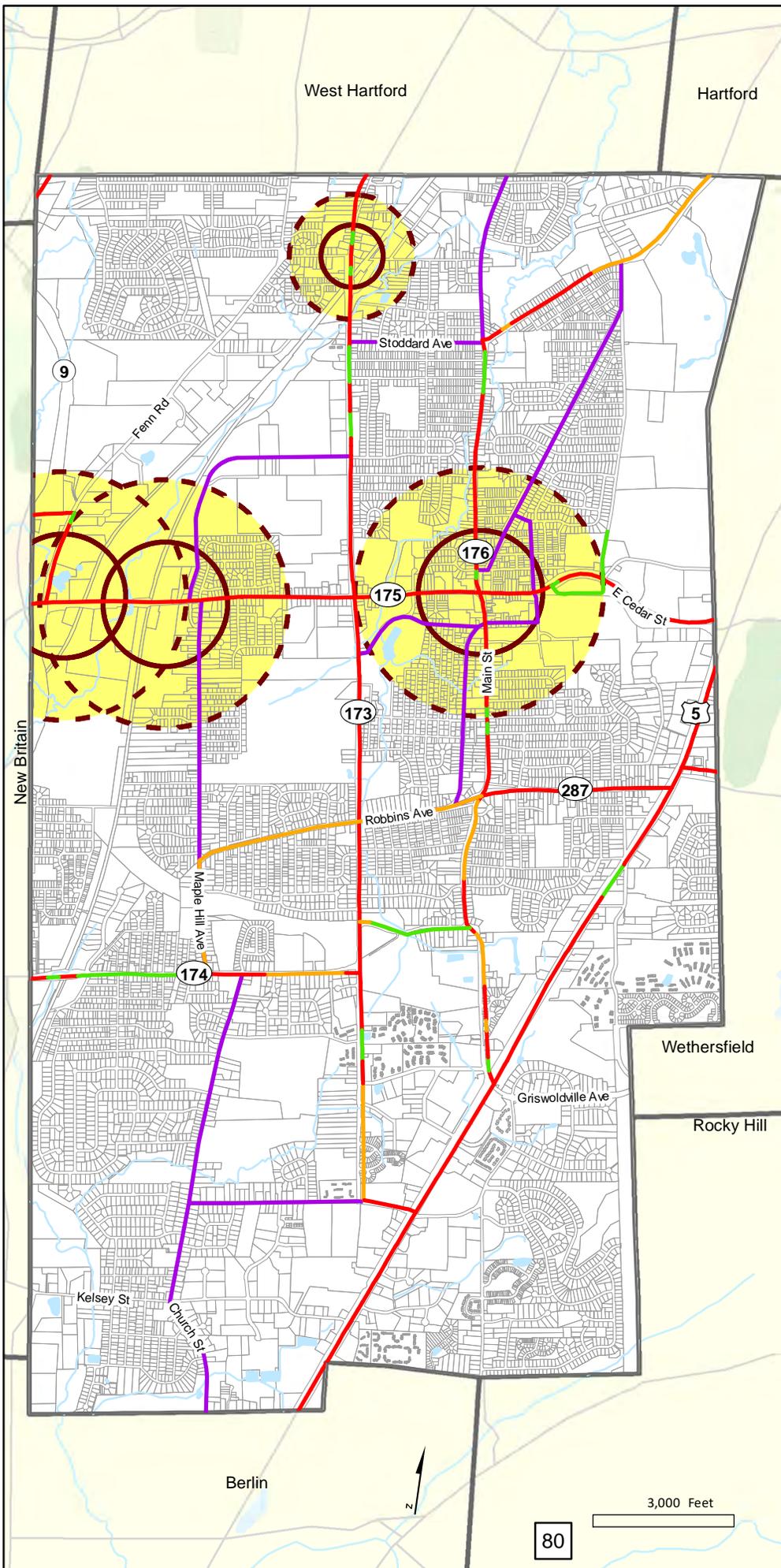
Sidewalk to be replaced

Core Area / Walk Radius

Fringe Area / Walk Radius

Bicycle Plan

Newington, CT



Possible Bicycle Routes (State Roads)

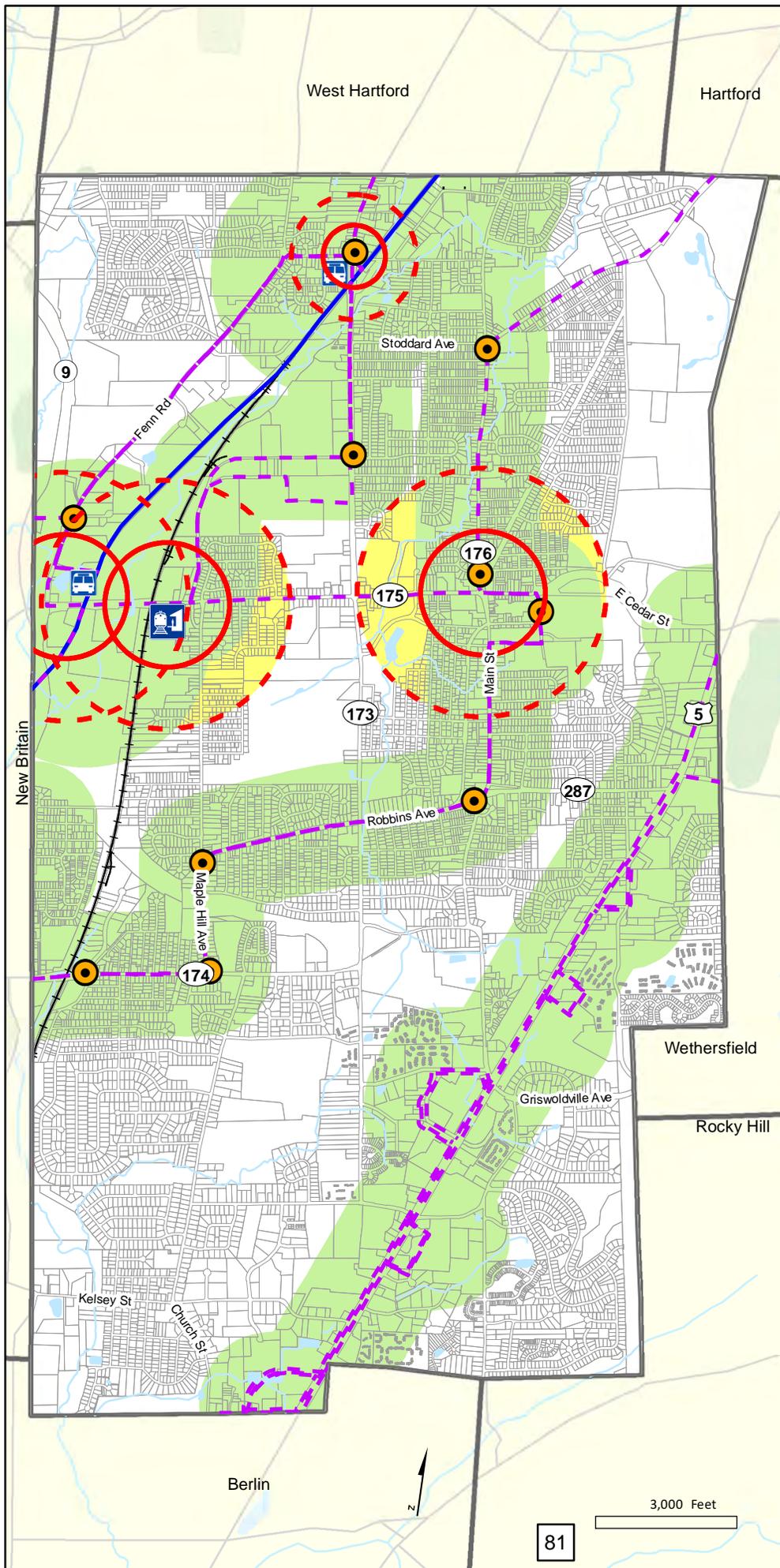
- Most Suitable
- Suitable
- Less Suitable

Possible Bicycle Routes (Local Roads)

- Local Bicycle Route
- Core Area / Walk Radius
- Fringe Area / Walk Radius

Transit and Rail Plan

Newington, CT



Bus Services

- Fastrak Busway
-  Fastrak Busway Station
- - - Bus Route
-  Bus Shelter

Rail Services

- +— Rail Service
-  Proposed Train Station
- Area within 1/4 mile of bus route or within 1/2 mile of busway / train station
- Core Area / Walk Radius
- - - Fringe Area / Walk Radius

Pedestrian / Bicycle / Transit Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Maintain and enhance pedestrian circulation including: a. accommodations for the special needs of an aging population. b. overall community accessibility for mobility-impaired people	PW DOT COAD
2. Encourage new development and redevelopment to provide pedestrian amenities (sidewalks and/or trails).	TPZ TE
3. As provided in the Open Space section of the POCD, seek to establish a greenway / trail system.	OSC Town
4. Support accommodations and improvements which will support and enhance bicycle use in Newington.	TE
5. Seek opportunities to stripe narrower lanes on roadways, where appropriate, in order to provide more space for cyclists.	DOT PW
6. Encourage new development and redevelopment to provide bicycle amenities.	TPZ TE
7. Continue to participate in regional bicycle planning efforts and seek to implement Newington recommendations.	Town CRCOG
8. Support establishment of the Newington train station on Cedar Street.	Town
9. Support the maintenance and improvement of transit services (rail and bus) to meet community needs.	Town
10. Continue to support para-transit bus services in Newington (such as the “dial-a-ride”).	COAD
11. Monitor “dial-a-ride” usage since there may be a need to provide more service as Newington’s population ages.	COAD

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Establish a local working group as a temporary committee to better integrate pedestrian / bicycle / transit into an overall system to enhance the overall quality of life in Newington.	TC TE PW DOT
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Review the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations to ensure sidewalk installation is required as part of new development (or redevelopment).	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Develop a priority schedule for closing gaps in sidewalk network.	TC TE
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Consider adopting a town-wide “complete streets” policy in Newington.	TC TE

UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Support the provision of adequate utility services to meet community needs.



In the POCD, utility infrastructure refers to utility services such as:

- Piped utilities (sewer, water, storm drainage, and natural gas),
- Wired utilities (electric, telephone, and cable), and
- Wireless services (communications).

The overall goals are to:

- Provide for adequate utility infrastructure to meet community needs.
- Use utility infrastructure to support the desired overall community structure.

Water Supply



Sewage Collection



Electrical Distribution



Wireless Communication



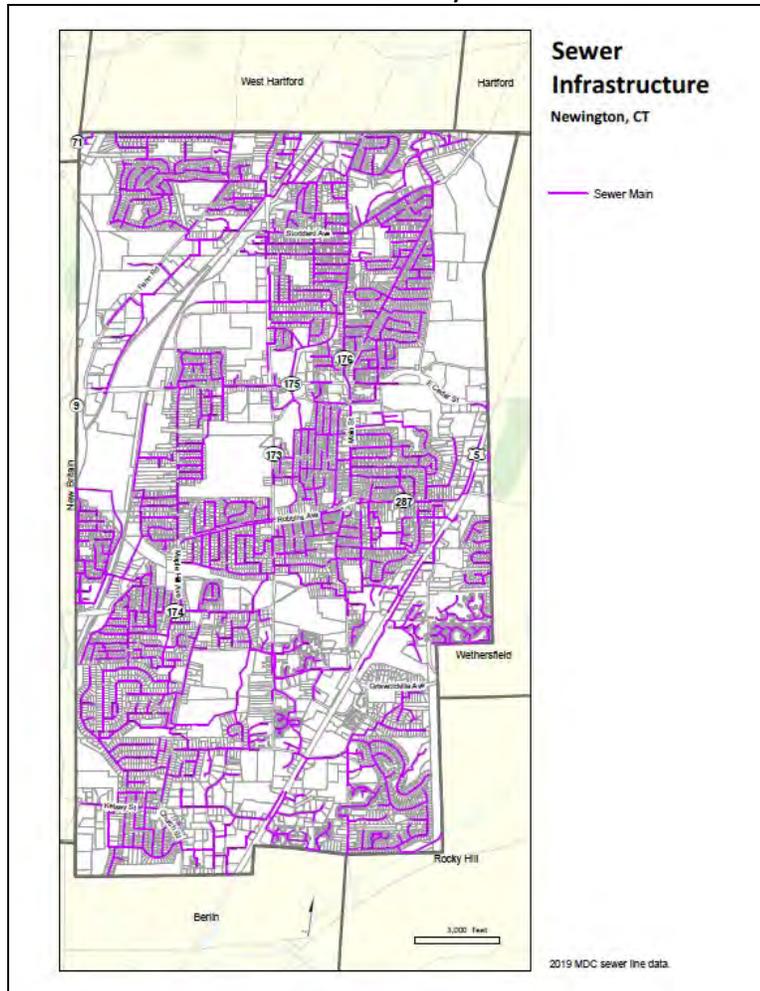
PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Piped Infrastructure

Sewage Collection / Treatment System - Most areas of Newington are served by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) sewer system. There is capacity in the system and at the plant to accommodate additional sewer flows and so Newington has adequate sewer service to meet community needs for the foreseeable future.

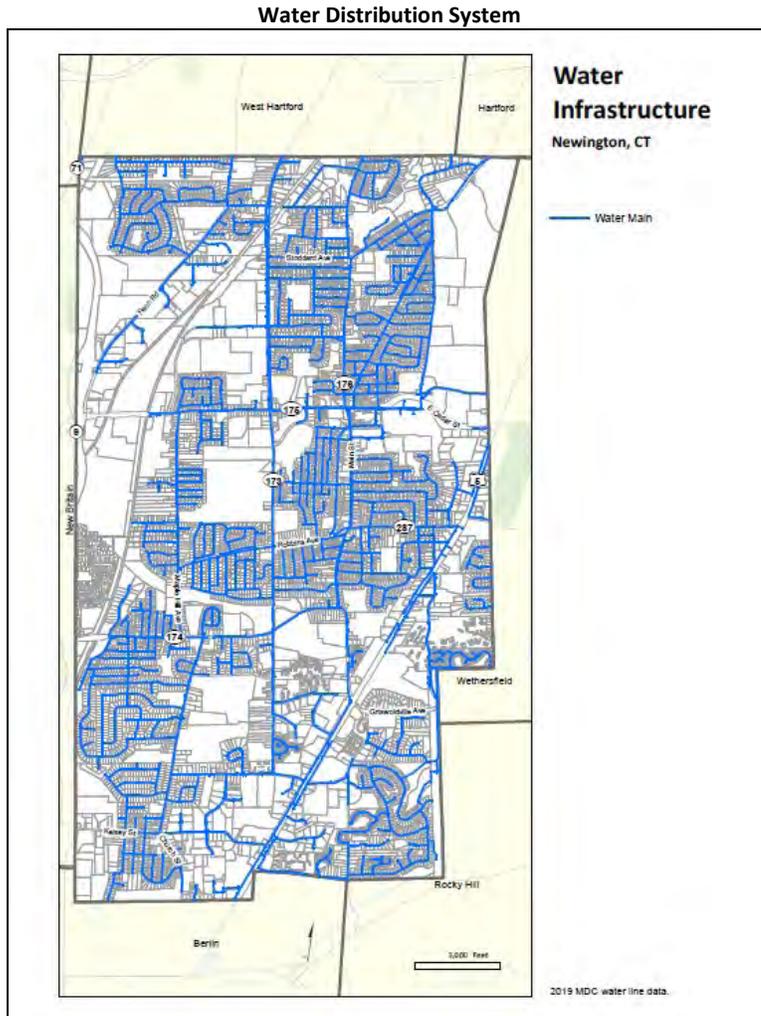
CGS Section 8-23(g) requires that a POCD identify the general location and extent of any areas served by existing sewerage systems, where sewerage systems are planned, and where sewers are to be avoided. **Given the sewer capacity available, all areas of Newington are considered potential sewer service areas and no areas are identified as sewer avoidance areas.**

Sewer Collection System



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Water Supply / Distribution System - Most areas of Newington are served by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) water supply system. There is an adequate supply of water available to meet community needs for the foreseeable future. Newington will continue to promote the extension of water service to those sections of Newington not presently connected and to areas where future development is anticipated.



Storm Drainage - Storm drainage is an important issue since some areas of Newington experience flooding due to flat slopes, tight soils, and undersized pipes and culverts. To help address these challenges, Newington has adopted “low impact development” regulations to address storm water quantity (and water quality) and encourage these issues to be addressed on individual properties as well as by the Town and/or State.

Wired Infrastructure

Electricity - Electrical distribution in Newington is provided by Eversource. Over the years, the reliability of the electric distribution system has been improved through equipment upgrades, tree trimming, and other approaches. Adequate electricity is expected to be available in the future to meet the needs of local users and accommodate new technologies and uses (such as electric vehicles and electric charging stations). Solar, wind, and other localized generation is used on some individual properties but is not widespread.

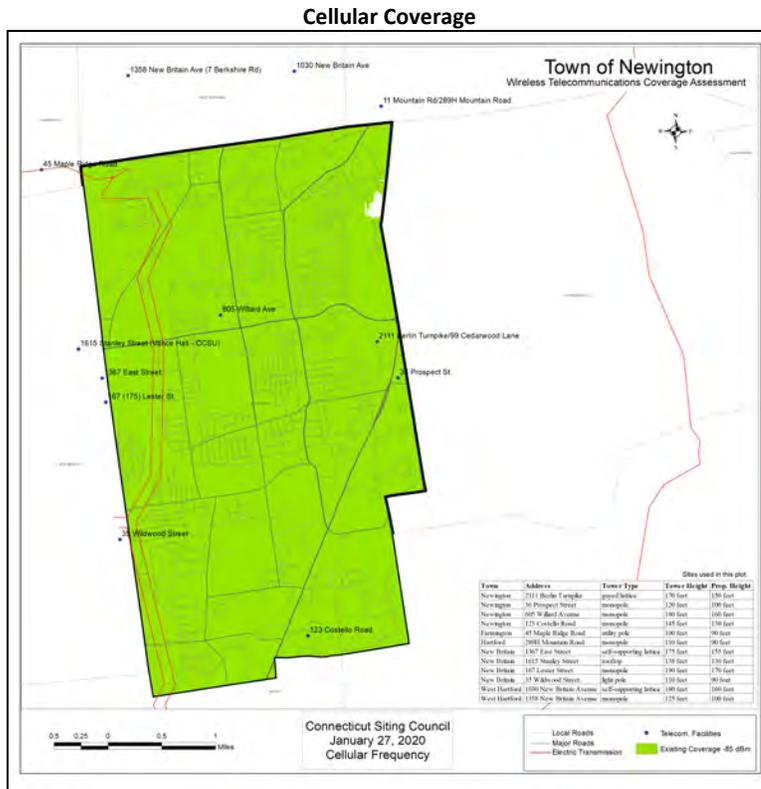
Wired Communications - Wired communication services (land-line telephone and cable communication) in Newington are provided by Cox Communications and Frontier Communications. Most homes and businesses are now obtaining telephone, internet, and cable television service through “bundled services” from these providers.

While wired communication service is adequate to meet the basic needs of residents, it is a key objective of Newington to promote high speed / high capacity broadband service for all parts of the community. The Town should continue to work with providers to find ways to upgrade and improve the wired communications network.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Wireless Infrastructure

Most people are using mobile phones and other wireless devices (some people are relying exclusively on them). Even though coverage is extensive in Newington, additional facilities may be needed in the future to provide capacity and enhanced services. Newington would like to support the improvement of wireless capacity using the least visually obtrusive means possible (such as “stealth” technologies).



**Common Tower
With No Camouflage**



**Stealth Monopole
As Flagpole**



**Tower With
Tree-Type Camouflage**



Utility Infrastructure Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Encourage or require extension of Metropolitan District sewer service to those sections of Newington not presently connected and to areas where future development is anticipated.	Town MDC
2. Encourage or require extension of Metropolitan District water service to those sections of Newington not presently connected and to areas where future development is anticipated.	Town MDC
3. Use the town-wide Storm Drainage Analysis Study (2010) as the basis for addressing drainage improvements in a coordinated way.	TE / PW TC
4. Continue efforts to address “MS4” drainage permit requirements as established by the State and Federal governments including implementing “LID” approaches to storm drainage	TE PW TPZ
5. Continue to work with Eversource to ensure adequate electric service and electrical reliability in Newington while “balancing such efforts with a desire to maintain a robust tree canopy.	TE TW
6. Encourage the provision of adequate wired communication service (land line telephone, cable television, and wired internet) to meet community needs.	EDC Town
7. Promote provision of high-speed internet access (enhanced broadband capacity) in Newington for the benefit of businesses and residents.	EDC Town
8. Work with telecommunication providers and the Connecticut Siting Council to provide for wireless services to meet local needs in the least visually intrusive manner.	EDC

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Consider revisiting the town-wide Storm Drainage Analysis Study (2010) in order to anticipate the impacts of a projected increase in the frequency and severity of storm events and the ability of “LID” approaches to help mitigate negative impacts.	TE PW Town

IMPLEMENTATION

Implement the Plan of Conservation and Development



Implementation of POCD recommendations is the most important part of the planning process. While identifying strategies is important, nothing will really change if policies and action steps are not implemented.

Implementation takes place after the POCD is adopted and the various recommendations are put into action and evaluated. While the Town Plan and Zoning Commission has the lead role in promoting the Plan's implementation, implementation will only occur with the diligent efforts of Newington residents and officials. As a result, responsibility for implementation rests with all boards, agencies, and individuals in Newington.

Some agencies will play important roles in implementing the POCD. A number of POCD recommendations will be implemented by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission through zoning amendments, application reviews, and other means. Some other recommendations will require the cooperation of the Town Council and other local boards and commissions.

Implementation of a Plan typically occurs in two main phases:

- some of the recommendations can and should be given high priority since they are critical to the implementation of the Plan;
- other recommendations will be implemented over time because they may require additional study, coordination with or implementation by others, or involve the commitment of significant financial resources.

If the Plan is to be realized, it must serve as a guide to all residents, businesses, developers, applicants, owners, agencies, and individuals interested in the orderly conservation and development of the Town of Newington.

Policies

Policies are continuing activities that may never be fully implemented. They are difficult to monitor in terms of implementation and do not lend themselves to target completion dates.

On the other hand, POCD policies can be used to evaluate potential actions. For example, POCD policies could be used as a basis for land use decisions by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, especially for:

- Special Permit applications, and
- Zone change and text changes.

Implementation of the POCD will be facilitated by encouraging the Town Council and other Town agencies to consider the POCD policies when making their decisions.

Action Steps

Action steps are specific tasks which can be clearly defined and involve a specific action. Action steps can be itemized, prioritized, scheduled, managed, and monitored for progress.

The POCD anticipates that over time, Newington will continue to identify and undertake new action steps to help implement the Plan.

Implementation Tools

Establish A POCD Implementation Process

Having a process to implement the POCD will help ensure it is influential in guiding future actions of the town.

Some communities have found that a Plan Implementation Committee (PIC) can be effective at coordinating implementation of the POCD. The most effective PICs include representatives of various Town boards and commissions. In some other communities, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission sets aside specific meetings to review POCD implementation.

The plan implementation meeting(s) should occur regularly (maybe 2-3 times per year) to review the implementation tables in the POCD and refine priorities based on local issues, funding opportunities, and/or other criteria.

The POCD implementation process can also include giving new members of key Town boards and commissions a copy of the POCD.

Use The Implementation Tables

The chapters of the POCD contain implementation tables which contain two types of recommendations – policies and actions steps. Using these tables to guide municipal actions (leaders, partners, priority, etc.) will help implement the POCD.

Example Of An Implementation Table

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Establish a plan implementation process to prioritize, coordinate, and refine implementation of the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Update the Zoning Regulations (and Zoning Map) to implement strategies, policies, and action steps in the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Update the Subdivision Regulations to implement strategies, policies, and action steps in the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Give new members of key Town boards and commissions a copy of the POCD once they are seated.	Town

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Maintain The POCD

A POCD should be a dynamic document that is used, reevaluated, and amended as necessary. When a POCD is considered strictly a reference document rather than a working document, its effectiveness in guiding the community can diminish over time.

Newington should consider keeping this POCD current and not waiting 10 years to update it. The simplest way to maintain the POCD might be to review major sections of the Plan every year by:

1. Holding a workshop session to summarize current POCD recommendations and discuss potential new POCD strategies,
2. Revising POCD sections including any changes to the maps, as appropriate, and
3. Re-adopting the POCD.

Update Land Use Regulations

The Zoning Regulations are critical in guiding new development and redevelopment in Newington and so these regulations should be consistent with POCD goals and recommendations. It has been a number of years since the regulations were *comprehensively* updated and so it may be time to review and update the Zoning Regulations, as necessary.

The Subdivision Regulations should also be made consistent with POCD goals in order to implement POCD recommendations.

Implementing The POCD Through The Budget

When Newington invests in projects and programs which are closely aligned with the policies and action items identified in the POCD, the community moves closer to achieving its overall goals and objectives. This includes new programs and initiatives as well as maintaining the facilities Newington already has.

Annual Operating Budget - The annual operating budget guides municipal spending and so it is an important indicator of municipal priorities. Incorporating POCD recommendations in the operating budget and adequately funding them will certainly help to implement POCD recommendations.

Capital Budget / Capital Improvement Programming - Capital projects tend to be long-term investments in the future of a community. When these capital investments help accomplish recommendations in the POCD, the community benefits in a number of ways.

8-24 Review

Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that municipal improvements (as defined in the statute) be referred to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for a report before any local action is taken.

The Commission should strive to ensure that the referral occurs and that spending on municipal improvements reflects the priorities and recommendations of the POCD.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Key Definitions

Capital Asset - Land, land improvements, infrastructure, equipment, or other assets that have a long-term lifespan.

Capital Project - A project which results in the acquisition or increased value or lengthened lifespan of a capital asset.

Capital Budget - The amount of money to be spent in the current fiscal year for capital projects.

Capital Improvements Plan - A multi-year financial plan that:

- Lists and describes capital projects a local government plans to undertake,
- Indicates how projects will be funded, and
- Projects the effects of the plan on key financial variables, such as the real property tax rate.

Spending on capital projects is an important part of Newington’s approach to the future and the difference between a capital budget and a capital improvement program deserves additional discussion.

Capital projects can be of three general types:

- Spending to maintain a capital asset and maintain or extend its useful life or level of service,
- Spending to physically expand an existing capital asset (such as a school building), and/or
- Spending to provide a new facility to meet present or future community needs.

Creating a multi-year financial plan with estimations of capital funding needs and how to pay for them (based on assumptions about operating expenditures, revenues, assessed value, reserves, and known debt service commitments) is an important way for a community to efficiently and cost-effectively address the maintenance of its capital assets and address the needs and desires of residents.

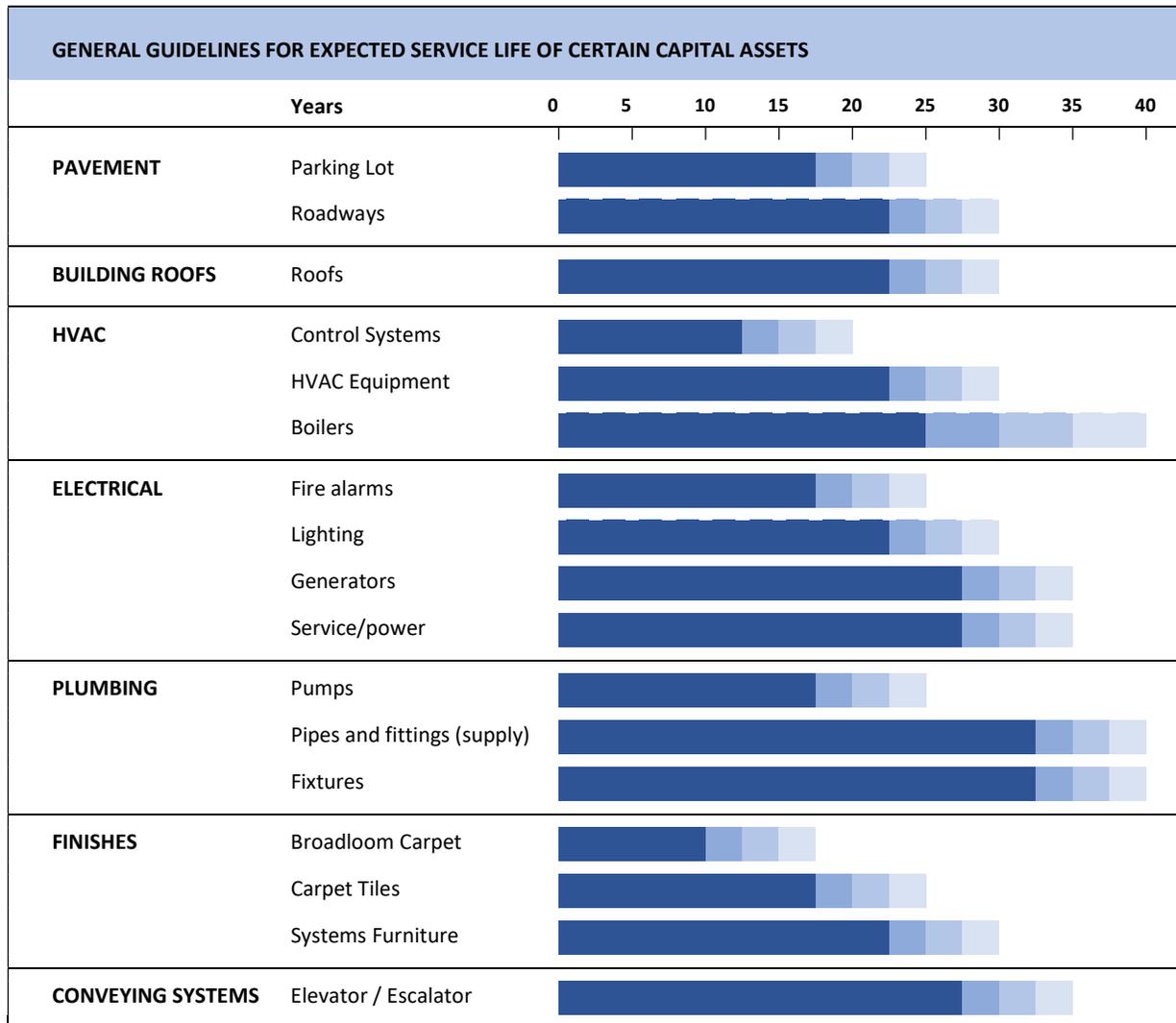
In fact, if Newington did not invest towards meeting its capital needs:

- Infrastructure (such as roads or utility systems) may deteriorate or fail affecting the basic health and safety of residents.
- Building systems (such as roofs or mechanical systems) may deteriorate affecting the usability of the facility.
- Operating costs and/or future replacement costs may be higher and reduce funds available to provide other services.
- It runs the risk of having to respond to emergencies in response to failures and pay higher costs rather than anticipate and plan for capital needs in a cost-effective way.
- The community may not be in a position to maximize its economic potential.
- The visual attractiveness of the community may suffer.
- The Town may not be able to take advantage of state or federal grants to offset the cost to local property owners.
- The quality of life may be reduced.

Developing and funding a multi-year financial and capital plan has clear benefits to Newington:

- Allowing for better project ranking and affordability measures,
- Clearing up uncertainty about current levels of investment,
- Resolving the problem of dealing with the same issues repeatedly, and
- Improving the annual budget and budget process since the amount of funding required for debt service and capital spending can be balanced in current and future years.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption



Adapted From "Facility Management and Capital Renewal", Fairfax County, Virginia

A multi-year financial and capital plan is also a useful budgeting and managing tool since it allows the Town to:

- Balance capital investments with available financing, thereby receiving the optimum benefits for the available public revenue.
- Align capital investment with its planning goals and operating resources.
- Take advantage of government, foundation, and other grant programs and leverage project-specific funding resources.
- Undertake a logical process of assigning priorities to projects based on their overall importance to the Town.
- Coordinate activities with federal, state and regional organizations, utility companies, and the private sector to anticipate when the Town will undertake public improvements, and make decisions and plan investments accordingly.

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

Sources of Revenue

Revenue to fund capital spending can come from:

- Property taxes that directly fund capital projects (pay cash)
- Property taxes that fund debt service expenses for projects that were bonded
- Special assessments
- User fees
- State grants
- Federal grants

Capital spending to maintain or achieve a certain level of service is an important consideration. A regular planning process (such as preparing a multi-year capital improvement plan) should:

- Inventory and assess different types of physical infrastructure,
- Identify deficiencies,
- Establish a desired “level of service” or other metric for facilities, and
- Prioritize needed investments.

This analysis should also include consideration of the desired level of service. How to measure level of service for each of the various types of capital assets maintained by the Town will be an on-going endeavor ((public water, public sewer, roadway pavement, sidewalks, trails, recreation facilities, fire / police / emergency medical, open space, public works, education, etc.).

If the demands placed on a capital asset exceed its capacity, the level of service might be expected to decline. Thus, it will be important for Newington to monitor the qualitative aspects of the community’s capital assets LOS in order to:

- Assure that development occurs in concert with the capacity of local facilities,
- Enable adequate public facilities to be provided in a timely manner
- Help achieve the growth objectives of the POCD, and
- Correct deficiencies in providing adequate levels of service as opportunities arise.

Just as car owners change their oil on a regular basis and replace their vehicle when needed, Newington should do the same thing.

Sealing Roadway Cracks



Roof Replacement



PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

In some communities, capital projects are scored as to their overall priority based on such considerations as:

Criteria	Description	Weight
1. Health, Safety & Welfare	An assessment of the degree to which the project improves health and safety factors. For example, projects that result in the reduction of accidents, improved structural integrity, and mitigation of health hazards would score higher	25%
2. Regulatory Or Legal Mandates	An assessment of the degree to which the project is under a regulatory order or other legal mandate, or meets a federal, State or local safety requirement. For example, projects that are required by court orders and other legal mandates would score higher.	25%
3. Operational Necessity	An assessment of the degree to which the project sustains (5 points max.) or improves (10 points max.) operational efficiency and effective delivery of services.	10%
4. Implication Of Deferring The Project (Opportunity Costs)	An assessment of costs associated with <i>deferring</i> the project (such as inflationary construction costs or additional annual operating / maintenance costs for each year the project is not funded). For example, projects that would have significantly higher future costs or negative public perception, should they be deferred, would score higher.	10%
5. Community Demand	An assessment of the degree to which the project meets a community need or responds to community demand.	7%
6. Funding Leveraging	An assessment of the amount of Town funding in the project compared to the amount of funding provided by outside agencies. For example, a project that would bring grant funds from an outside agency into the Town would score higher, while a project that relies only on Town funds would score lower.	7%
7. Strategic Goals	An assessment of the degree to which the project furthers the strategic goals as adopted in the POCD.	6%
8. Budget Impact	An assessment of the project’s budget impact (i.e., the degree to which it affects operations and maintenance costs positively or negatively). For example, a roof replacement project that reduces both maintenance requirements and energy consumption. On the other hand, a new facility that increases maintenance, energy and staffing costs would score lower.	5%
9. Implementation Readiness	An assessment of the time required for a project to begin based on project complexity; agreements or approvals required by Town and non-Town entities; timing considerations with other capital projects (if applicable); the degree to which the project is in compliance with the POCD or other Town-adopted plans; and level of public support. Whether a public information strategy is recommended will be noted.	5%

Adapted from City of Annapolis, Maryland

Implementation Strategies

Legend for Leaders / Partners
on inside back cover

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)	Leader / Partners
1. Implement the POCD using the implementation tables as a guide for municipal actions.	TPZ TP
2. Regularly review POCD strategies, policies and action steps to ensure they are relevant to community needs.	TPZ TP
3. Use the POCD policies to guide land use decisions such as Special Permits, map changes, and text changes.	TPZ TP
4. Encourage other boards and commission to consider and use POCD policies, as applicable, when making decisions.	TPZ TP
5. Coordinate implementation efforts with adjacent municipalities as well as state and regional agencies.	TPZ TP
6. Use the POCD as a guide when preparing the annual operating budget.	TC Town
7. Use the POCD as a guide when preparing the capital budget.	TC Town CIC
8. Use the POCD policies to review “municipal improvements” referred to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission by the Town Council (CGS Section 8-24).	TPZ TP
9. Coordinate with other municipalities and regional organizations to implement POCD recommendations and accomplish desirable outcomes.	Town CROCOG JSSS

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)	Leader / Partners
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Establish a plan implementation process to prioritize, coordinate, and refine implementation of the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Update the Zoning Regulations (and Zoning Map) to implement strategies, policies, and action steps in the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Update the Subdivision Regulations to implement strategies, policies, and action steps in the POCD.	TPZ TP
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Give new members of key Town boards and commissions a copy of the POCD once they are seated.	Town

CONCLUSION



The POCD has been prepared to meet the challenges that will confront the Town of Newington in the future. It is meant to serve as a guide to be followed in order to enhance the Town's quality of life, the overall economy, and community character.

The POCD is also intended to be flexible enough to allow adjustments that achieve specific goals and objectives while maintaining the integrity of the long-term goals of the community. Still, the most important step of the planning process is implementation of the Plan's strategies, policies, and action steps.

During the next few years, some of the goals will be achieved, circumstances will undoubtedly change, and conditions may arise that will suggest that it is time to reconsider some of the POCD strategies, policies, and action steps. Such situations are to be expected. Programs that help achieve community consensus, establish community goals, and promote community welfare will all turn out to be positive steps in the history of Newington.

Consistency With Regional Plan

In accordance with Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the POCD has been evaluated for consistency with the Land Use Policy Map in the Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development prepared by the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). The Newington POCD was found to be generally consistent with the Land Use Policy Map in the CRCOG Plan.



Consistency With State Plan

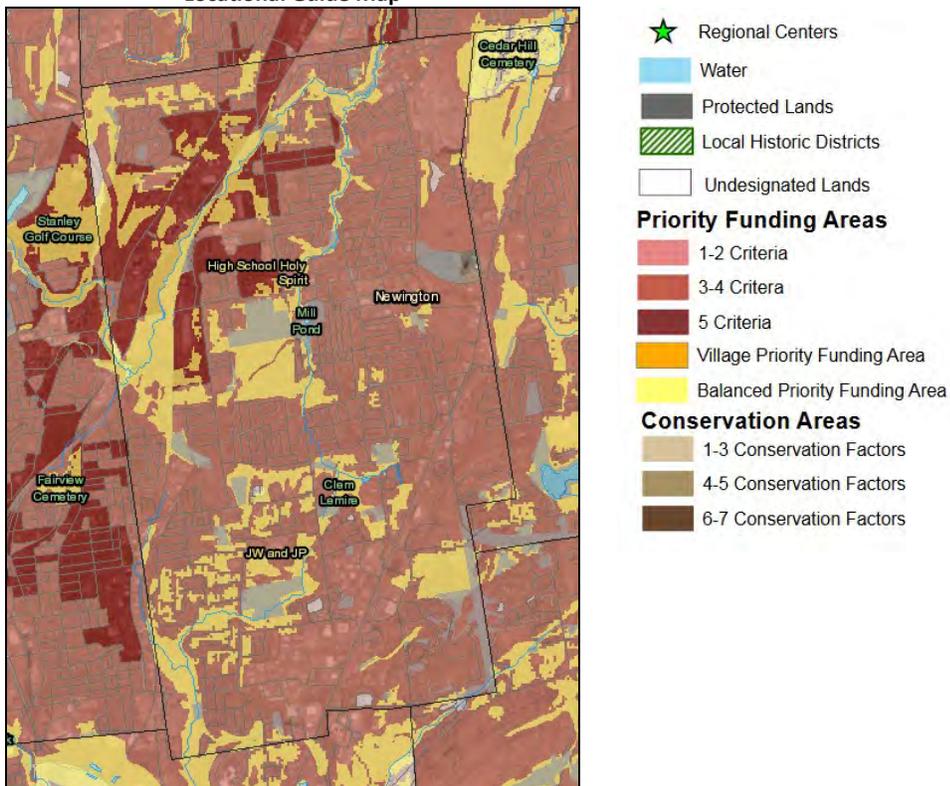
In accordance with Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the POCD has been evaluated for consistency with the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan (2013-2018 Plan since the 2018-2023 Plan had not been adopted at the time this POCD was being prepared). As part of this review, the POCD was found to be generally consistent with the Locational Guide Map in the 2013-2018 State Plan.

In the future, Newington should consider requesting that the following areas be considered as “village priority funding areas” in the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan:

- Newington Town Center,
- The proposed train station area on Cedar Street, and
- The Newington Junction and Cedar Street CT Fastrak stations.

In the future, Newington should consider requesting that Cedar Mountain be identified as having more conservation factors.

2013-18 State of Connecticut
Locational Guide Map



Consistency With State Growth Principles

In accordance with Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Plan of Conservation and Development was found to be consistent with statewide growth management principles.

Principle	Findings
1. Redevelop and revitalize regional centers and areas of mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure.	CONSISTENT – Although Newington is not a “regional center”, the POCD promotes mixed use, pedestrian-friendly development in Newington Town Center and at existing and planned transit hubs.
2. Expand housing opportunities and design choices to accommodate a variety of household types and needs.	CONSISTENT - The POCD promotes strategies to help provide for housing options that are more affordable and to address the housing needs of an aging population.
3. Concentrate development around transportation nodes and along major transportation corridors to support the viability of transportation options and land reuse.	CONSISTENT - The POCD promotes mixed use, pedestrian-friendly development in Newington Town Center and at existing and planned transit hubs.
4. Conserve and restore the natural environment, cultural and historical resources, and traditional rural lands.	CONSISTENT - The POCD contains specific strategies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect natural resources, • Preserve open space, and • Protect historic and scenic resources.
5. Protect environmental assets critical to public health and safety.	CONSISTENT - The POCD contains recommendations to protect water quality (both surface and ground), preserve floodplain areas, minimize runoff, and other similar strategies.
6. Integrate planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local, regional, and statewide basis.	CONSISTENT - The POCD has been used, and will be used, to coordinate efforts with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent communities, • Regional organizations, and • State agencies.

Future Steps

During the next few years, it is envisioned that action steps in the POCD will be implemented as opportunities arise and circumstances permit. Completion of action steps is the most effective way to accomplish POCD recommendations.

Over the course of time, it is also envisioned that the strategies and policies in the POCD will be applied and used to guide decision making in Newington.

While circumstances will undoubtedly change, programs that help achieve community consensus, establish community goals, and promote community welfare will all turn out to be positive steps in the history of Newington.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Town Plan and Zoning Commission

Dominic Pane, Chair
Anthony Claffey, Vice Chair
Garrett Havens, Secretary

Michael Fox
David Lenares
Stanley Sobieski
Stephen Woods

Hyman Braverman, Alternate
Thomas Gill, Alternate
Bryan Haggerty, Alternate

Frank Aieta (to September 2019)
Michael Camillo (to November 2019)
John Bottalico (to November 2019)
Paul Giangrave (to November 2019)

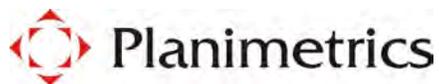
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Special thanks to the residents, business owners and property owners who came to meetings, contributed to discussions, and helped create this POCD for Newington.

Technical Support



Glenn Chalder, AICP
(Overall Project Management)



Michael Fazio
(GIS Mapping)

LEADERS AND PARTNERS



Designations For Leaders And Partners In The Policies / Action Steps Tables (sorted alphabetically by acronym)

BOE	Board of Education	LBT	Library Board of Trustees
BSC	Blight Subcommittee		
		MDC	Metropolitan District Commission
CCHD	Central Connecticut Health District	MH	Municipal Historian
CIC	Capital Improvements Committee		
CIWC	Conservation/Inland Wetlands Commission	NHS	Newington Historical Society
COAD	Commission on the Aging & Disabled		
CPD	Civil Preparedness Director	OSC	Open Space Committee
CRCOG	Capitol Region Council Of Governments		
		PD	Police Department
DEEP	CT Dept. of Energy / Environmental Protection		
DOT	CT Department of Transportation	PRB	Parks & Recreation Board
		PW	Public Works / Highway Department
EDC	Economic Development Commission		
EQC	Environmental Quality Commission	TC	Town Council
		TE	Town Engineer
FD	Fire Department	Town	Town agencies as directed by Town Manager
		TP	Town Planner
HA	Housing Authority	TPZ	Town Planning & Zoning Commission
HNSC	Housing Needs Study Committee	TW	Tree Warden
JSSS	Joint Shared Services Subcommittee	ZEO	Zoning Enforcement Officer

PROPOSED POCD– For Public Hearing On Adoption

